



port, page 17.

## Baird puts William in the picture

Continued from page 1  
The Baird family, who have been in the picture for some time, are now being put in the picture again. The family, who have been in the picture for some time, are now being put in the picture again. The family, who have been in the picture for some time, are now being put in the picture again.

## Florida tries girl aged six

A six-year-old girl, accused of being another child with a stoma, has gone on trial in Florida on a charge that she carried a 15-year sentence for adults.

## MEPs for 14pc farm price rise

The European Parliament voted by 135 to 107 for a 14 per cent increase in farm prices, turning down the EEC Commission's recommendation of 9 per cent and the farmers' demand for 16.3 per cent.

## Rate challenge to GLC fails

A legal challenge by the Conservative-controlled Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to the Greater London Council's rates precept was rejected in the Divisional Court.

## Lucas faces row

The Lucas company has beaten its rival, Chloride, to become the sole supplier of batteries to BL Cars. But Chloride protested that there had been unfair competition and said it would seek legal advice.

## Holding the reins

In the last of *The Times* series on the racing industry, we examine the financial and commercial aspects of the Jockey Club, the body that holds the reins of racing.

## Metal Box to shed 1,200 jobs

Metal Box, Europe's largest packaging group, is to shed a further 1,200 jobs and shut plants in Leicester, Greater Manchester and Monmouth, taking the number of its redundancies in the past 20 months to 8,200. In 1980-81 the company had its worst year with pre-tax profits falling to £29m from £62.8m the previous year.

## Navy hovercraft unit to close

The Ministry of Defence has announced the closure of the Royal Navy's hovercraft trials unit on the south coast, virtually ending 20 years of experimental work carried out by the Armed Forces with the British invention.

## 200 arrested in Bangladesh

The martial law administration in Bangladesh has arrested more than 200 people, including former ministers, since Wednesday's coup. Mr. Abdus Sattar, the ousted President, is being guarded by police in Dacca.

## East Germany's pacifists defiant

Anti-war arm patches are the vogue among East Germany's growing pacifist movement, but police have begun ripping them off. Defiant Protestants pastors will speak out from pulpits against this tomorrow.

## Oxford 4-1 on for boat race

Oxford are overwhelming favourites for the Boat Race today despite a late change in rowing order. They are 4-1 on, the Cambridge crew have been out from 6-4 against 3-1.

## Test-tube baby ethics studied

The Council for Science and Society has set up a working party to examine the social, ethical and legal implications of test-tube babies and the existing and emerging techniques for human reproduction.

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# Israel accuses 7 mayors of being PLO agents

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 26

The civilian administrator of the West Bank today accused seven of the 17 Arab mayors still holding office of being agents of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Professor Mervin Milson, a reserve army colonel, told the press conference that the further Israeli action against the elected officials was probable, as the violence provoked by the dismissal of three mayors continued into its second week.

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Campaign heats up: A minibus blazing in a San Salvador street, after being blown up by left-wing guerrillas bent on disrupting public transport before Sunday's elections. Report on fighting, page 4; Letter from San Salvador, back page.

## New tax battle for banks

By Our Banking Correspondent

The banks face a permanent new tax if measures under review by the Government are put into effect. This follows the Chancellor's warning on bank taxation in the Budget.

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## Steel urges SDP to speed up choice of its leader

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

As Mr Roy Jenkins, the yet to be appointed leader of the Social Democrats yesterday celebrated his by-election victory at Glasgow, Hillhead, and the first anniversary of the SDP, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, urged his Alliance partners to choose a leader "sooner rather than later".

Mr Steel told the annual conference of Scottish Liberals yesterday that he would work with any leader the SDP might choose. But, that decision could not be taken until the leader of the SDP had been elected.

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## Whitelaw in talks on Pope's visit

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Concern in Rome about the tests during the Pope's forthcoming visit to Britain was discussed during a 45-minute meeting yesterday between Archbishop Bruno Bevilacqua, the Conservative Secretary of State, and Mr Whitelaw, Home Secretary.

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## Consortium seeks £100m Aintree development

By Lorna Bourke

A consortium of 10 businessmen have put forward a £100m plan to secure the Grand National for the next 30 years. The men, who refused to be named until the deal goes through, offered the Aintree owner, Mr Bill Davies, his £8m asking price for the site.

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## Company car drivers to pay 20% more tax

By Lorna Bourke

People using company cars will have to pay an extra 20 per cent tax from April of next year. The changes were announced by the Chancellor yesterday.

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## Summer time

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# BA aims to save £150m by cuts

British Airways will save £150m in the coming year because of a tough retrenchment plan now being implemented, Mr Roy Watts, the chief executive, disclosed yesterday. (Michael Bailey writes.) However the measures, including staff reductions, route cancellations and aircraft sales, will be too late to affect the 1981-2 results which are expected to show a £200m-£250m loss after last year's deficit of £141m.

They could be followed by a new round of rigorous steps, including the possible sale of profitable subsidiaries as Sir John King, chairman, steers the airline towards the private sector.

Staff cuts now look like exceeding last year's target of 15,000 (down from 58,000 in 1979), according to Mr Watts, and of 16 international routes to be cancelled, nine have already gone and the remaining seven go next week. Sales of more than 20 aircraft are nearly complete; and the new Scottish division with reduced manning levels and improved working practices has been set up.

# Five for trial on hijack charges

Five Tanzanians were committed for trial by Chelmsford magistrates yesterday charged with hijacking a Air Tanzania Boeing 737 which landed at Stansted airport four weeks ago. The five, all from Dar-es-Salaam, are Yassin Membar, aged 21, unemployed, Moses Lee Membar, aged 24, a taxi driver, Mohamed Ali Abdallah, aged 25, a tyre fitter, Abdallah Ali Abdallah, aged 21, a student, and Mohamed Tahir Ahmed, aged 21, also a student.

The men, who were granted an extension to their legal aid will face trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

# Singer wins ban on BBC film

A judge yesterday banned the BBC from screening a 60-minute television documentary next Friday on a singing tour of the Highlands and islands by Calum Kennedy, the Gaelic singer.

Mr Kennedy had told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that he feared the programme would be a send-up of his tour, not a serious documentary. He alleged that he was deceived by Mr Michael Begg, the BBC producer. Lord Wylie granted an interim interdict against the film's screening next week.

# Bomb found at ambush house

A 10lb bomb was found yesterday at the house used by the killers who ambushed three soldiers in Belfast on Thursday (our Belfast Correspondent writes). It had been left to inflict further casualties.

The alarm was raised when a call was received by the Samaritans late on Thursday saying that there was a bomb on the premises. The area was evacuated and Army experts defused the device.

# Job offers for sit-in workers

Most workers involved in a two month occupation at the Plessey factory in Bathgate, which ended this week, are to be re-employed by Arcotronics, a new firm which is taking over the factory. Agreement on the 80 jobs was reached yesterday. Mrs Ina Scott, shop steward, said: "Seventy-two people who took part in the sit-in are being offered jobs."

# Talbot strike is called off

The strike which has halted all Talbot UK car production for the past three weeks ended yesterday after a deal worked out at talks under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was accepted by the workers (Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent, writes).

Although the dispute involved only 190 paint shop workers most of the company's 4,000 manual workers had been laid off.

# Forgery charge detective cleared

A detective inspector was cleared yesterday at Winchester Crown Court of trying to pervert the course of justice.

Det. Inspector Robin Napper, formerly of Thames Valley police, had denied removing a word from a witness statement and uttering a forged document intended to be used in evidence with the intention to deceive.

Mr Napper, who had been promoted and transferred to New Scotland Yard, was suspended last June.

# CORRECTION

The boys shown playing cricket in yesterday's photograph were from Westminster Abbey Choir School, not Westminster School.

# Navy to close hovercraft trials station

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy is closing its hovercraft trials unit on the South coast, virtually bringing to an end 20 years of experimental work by the Armed Forces with the all-British invention.

One of the craft, a BH-7, will be kept in operation to help the British Hovercraft Corporation in an export drive, with most of the running costs met by the corporation.

Yesterday's announcement by the Ministry of Defence came only three days after the decision to close seven naval training bases and make 4,000 sailors redundant.

But the ministry said last night that the reasons this time were only partly financial. Another was simply that the unit had done as much as it could.

The decision will be controversial because some people feel the Forces should help more to promote a British development, and because other navies, including that of the Soviet Union, have apparently seen the hovercraft's potential.

The ministry said that a hovercraft design was still among those under consideration for a new class of minehunter. Because of its special characteristics the hovercraft is relatively invulnerable to mines.

British military interest in hovercraft began with the establishment of a tri-service trials unit in 1962. But early results suggested that its advantages as a coastal or amphibious vehicle were balanced by disadvantages, and the Army and RAF withdrew in 1974, leaving the Navy to continue on its own.

The 100 sailors who man the unit at HMS Daedalus at Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, will disperse to other postings during the next few months and the three remaining hovercraft, a VT-2 and two SRN-6s, will be sold. There was a third SRM-6 which went to Hongkong in 1979 to help in the campaign to curb illegal immigrants, but it crashed on rocks in January and was damaged beyond repair.

The first criticism of the decision came last night from Mr Keith Speed, Conservative MP for Ashford and a former Navy minister, who said: "In the last month we have heard of the sale of the Jetfoil, the carrier HMS Invincible, and now this." It was another case of Britain inventing something and then handing it on a plate to someone else.

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, a member of the Commons defence committee, was critical of another decision by the ministry which was confirmed last night.

That was the cut in local overseas allowances (LOAs) paid to troops in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). The reductions will be between 10 and 27 per cent. The allowances compensate servicemen and their families for any rise in the cost of living when serving abroad. At one time the allowances paid to troops in BAOR were considerable.

The justification for them has declined as inflation on Britain has caught up with other countries and in some cases passed them. Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said yesterday that the cut was clearly justified after a review.

Most servicemen regard LOAs as one of the perquisites of serving abroad and the decision will be unpopular — which is why the Government is phasing in the reduction over nine months.

# Whitelaw urges councils to give lead on law

From Ronald Kershaw, Harrogate

Local authorities should give a lead to the public in working with the police and not against them, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said at Harrogate yesterday.

Some socialists in positions of local responsibility rarely seemed to reflect the opinions of ordinary people who had to live on crime-ridden streets, he said.

Mr Whitelaw was replying to a debate on law and order at the annual Conservative Central Council meeting and if he was seeking support or his proposals to extend police powers, he received an overwhelming vote of confidence from those attending.

Indeed, even those opposing the motion complaining of the imbalance of consideration extended to criminals rather than their victims, only did so because they considered that the measures he proposed did not go far enough.

Mr Whitelaw gave a resume of the action taken by the Government to improve the lot of the police: increasing police efficiency, extending the prison building programme and generally fulfilling the Government's manifesto proposals.

Mr Whitelaw said: "We are working against the background of an increasingly violent world. The police, the courts and the law and order service are faced with picking up the pieces in a society where too many individuals have turned to crime."



The St Albans Venus went back on public show at the town's Verulamium Museum yesterday amid new security precautions after the statue was stolen twice and returned by thieves who could not sell it (Stewart Tandler writes).

The Venus, dating from AD100, was first stolen in 1967. Although it is valued at £25,000 the thieves had difficulty in selling such a well-known piece and soon after it vanished it reappeared on the doorstep of Mr Gordon Davies, the museum director. Ten years later, it was stolen again and vanished for six months until Mr Davies (photographed holding replicas of the statue by Peter Trevnor) got an anonymous telephone call telling him where the Venus had been abandoned.

# In victory, magnanimity



Mr Jenkins and his wife during their "thank you" drive through Hillhead yesterday

# Jenkins aims at local polls

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Hillhead

Mr Roy Jenkins celebrated yesterday his victory in the by-election at Glasgow, Hillhead, and the first birthday of the Social Democratic Party by predicting a revival in the SDP-Liberal Alliance's fortunes.

"We have a very good chance of winning very substantial victories in the regional and local elections," he told a press conference at his headquarters hotel in Glasgow. The forthcoming by-election in the Conservative stronghold of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, would, he admitted, be hard to win, "but none the less all possibilities are open again."

Any majority would have been good enough, of course, but there will be some disappointment that it was not larger and that Mr Jenkins did not nudge closer to a 40 per cent share of the votes cast.

Mr Jenkins said that the Conservative and Labour parties were anxious to keep the alliance out of the political running, adding: "I would make no further predictions at whose expense we would do better in the future." Hillhead had been a blow for both the old monopoly parties. "I heard Mr Benn describe it on television as a marvellous result for the Labour Party," he said. "If Mr Benn thinks it is a marvellous result for the Labour Party, let up hope we have many more of them."

He pledged the SDP to work for a Liberal victory at Beaconsfield in June just as the Liberals had campaigned with the SDP in Hillhead.

"This is in no way an alliance of opportunism, but an alliance of principle," he added. "We agree on all the main issues of politics far more than do the different wings of either the Labour or Conservative parties."

He appealed for Liberals and Social Democrats to put behind them any damaging mutual suspicion that might exist. "Together, we are formidable," he said.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said that he would work with whoever was chosen to be the future alliance prime minister. I contrasted the autocratic power wielded by Labour and Conservative prime ministers, he added, a future alliance government would have much more of a team leadership.

A glorious occasion for the alliance in St Andrews was made the more so by yet another day of spring sunshine. "It's a beautiful day in every sense of the word," Mr Steel said.

The weather did not tempt many delegates outside; St Andrews town hall was packed to capacity all day for debates on devolution, higher education, and other issues.

Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and chairman of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, said that Labour's showing in the by-election reflected the gains made at the party's conference in Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire, last year.

"Last December, before Bishop's Cleeve," he said, "the result would not have been as good as this. This country reflected through the country would narrowly give a Labour Government."

There was much work to be done, but with the help of the trade unions, a Labour victory in the next general election would be achieved.

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## GLASGOW HILLHEAD

Jenkins, Roy (SDP-Lib)	10,106
Malcolm G. C.	5,068
Wiseman, D. P. (Lab.)	7,846
Leslie, G. (SNP)	3,416
Gass, J. (Protestant against Papeal visit)	388
Jenkins, R. (Sec-Deem)	282
Carlaw, A. (Ecology)	178
Boaks, W. G. (Public Safety)	5
Majority	2,038
1982	1978 Change
Con	26.6 41.0 -14.4
SDP-Lib	15.2 24.4 -9.2
Lab	33.4 14.4 +19.0
SNP	11.3 10.1 +1.2
Other	12.5 2.1 +10.4
PS: Electorate	39,238 39,793 -555
Swing: Conservative to Alliance	18.7%
Labour to Alliance	13.3%
General election, May, 1979	Glasgow Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106
1979	10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106
1979	10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106

# Hillhead victor thanks his allies

Mr Roy Jenkins went to St Andrews, Fife, yesterday afternoon to thank the Scottish Liberals for their part in his by-election victory.

The Scottish party's conference gave him a standing ovation as he looked forward to an alliance government after the next general election. "We have a unique opportunity, such as has not occurred for 60 years past," he said. "If we let it slip now, we would not forgive ourselves and the public would not forgive us."

In Hillhead the alliance appeal had drawn people together rather than driving them apart. His votes had come from the Labour stronghold "down by the riverside" and from the Conservative camp "up on the hill".

It had been a policy election. "People had attended public meetings, not to cheer and jeer but to listen and think." The alliance had got through to them that its policies were clearer, and more relevant, than those of the "dead end" traditional parties.

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# SHAKING OF HEAD 'LED TO DEATH'

The practice by young people of shaking their heads in time to music at rock concerts led to the death of a schoolboy, an inquest in Wolverhampton was told yesterday.

Christopher Hyer, aged 15, who lived in Griffiths Drive, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, was "head banging" at a concert given by the group Saxon in Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

When he woke up next day he had lost his speech and was suffering from partial paralysis of his right side.

"The exaggerated head movements at the concert were the primary cause of his death," Dr Shirley Ward, a pathologist, told the inquest.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded on the boy who died from brain injuries on Christmas Day.

# New drive to seize drug profits urged

From John Chatter, Preston

Worldwide moves to deprive drug traffickers of the proceeds of their crimes may follow from a three-day conference of the United Kingdom police officers' colleagues from Europe and the United States, and senior Customs and Excise and Home Office officials.

The conference, organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers, was chaired by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, who said afterwards: "The main conclusions were that measures must be taken internationally to ensure that those convicted of drug offences should be deprived of their proceeds and not be allowed to salt them away."

Mr Brian Bubbear, head of the Home Office drugs branch, and a conference delegate, is to report the conclusions to Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary.

Mr Peter Curting, chief investigation officer of the Customs and Excise, told the conference, in Preston, Lancashire, that the Swiss government was taking effective action to recover money banked by drug traffickers in numbered accounts.

He gave some details of a recent operation in Switzerland in which a large sum acquired through drug trafficking and deposited in a Swiss numbered account had been seized.

He said that the United States Government was exercising similar powers and the Canadian Government was likely to do so shortly. The seizure of profits should not be confined to cash deposits if they are thought to be extended to such investments as property.

Mr Oxford said: "We must get hold of everything they try to salt away."

# Ethics of test-tube births to be studied

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Cor

The Council for Science and Society announces in a letter to *The Times* today that it has set up a working party to study the social, ethical and legal implications of existing and emerging techniques for human reproduction.

The council, which is a group of scientists, lawyers, academics and other professional people concerned with the impact of advances in science and medicine, is the third body to set up such a working party. The others are the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

A report from a working party of the British Council of Churches and the Free Church Federal Council last week called for a public inquiry into such issues, saying that they were not purely medical matters and as such should not be left solely to medical men.

The announcement by the Council for Science and Society comes the day after the news that the first test-tube twins conceived in Britain have been born in Ontario, Canada. They are the world's second test-tube twins.

The mother, Mrs Kit Rankin, received treatment last year at the Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, for a condition called "sterility". She and Dr Robert Edwards and Dr Patrick Steptoe, the test-tube baby pioneers.

The clinic said yesterday that the babies, both boys, were fit and well, although they were born prematurely.

Mrs Rankin, a high school English teacher, gave birth at a hospital in Oakville, near Toronto. Mr Steptoe was present at the birth because he had stopped in Toronto on his way back from a conference in the United States.

Like other patients at Bourn Hall, Mrs Rankin returned home after having a successful egg transplant in her womb. The actual births of test-tube babies carry no extra risks than babies conceived in the normal way and usually take place at the patient's local obstetric hospital.

The boys have been named Colin Patrick Hugh and Gregory Fober Ian. Their father, Mr Ian Rankin, is a Canadian businessman.

About 30 test-tube babies have been born in the world: in Britain, Australia and the United States. There are at least 60 more pregnancies in Britain.

Test-tube twins are also expected by Mrs Jo Smith, from Stockport, Cheshire, who was treated for infertility by Professor Ian Craft at the Royal Free Hospital, north London. The world's first test-tube twins were born in Australia last June.

The high rate of twins among test-tube births is due to the fact that doctors often attempt to increase the chance of the woman retaining one embryo.

Ninety per cent of women going to Bourn Hall have an egg successfully removed, 95 per cent of them have the egg successfully fertilized but only one in five of the remainder manage to retain the fertilized egg when it is reimplanted.

Letters, page 9

# Prisoner absconds

Timothy Albert Newey, aged 23, of Brierley Hill, West Midlands, absconded from Sudbury open prison, Derbyshire, yesterday. He is serving six months and is the eleventh prisoner to abscond from the prison this year.

Source: Central National de Recherche Scientifique, Paris. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

# June 24 to be first national arts day

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Plans for the first national arts day on June 24, launched to celebrate the glories of the arts in Britain, have received support from the Government.

In a letter to *The Times* today a group of backers for the celebration led by Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy of Arts, welcomed the encouragement given to it by Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, who in a parliamentary answer wished the day a "successful launch".

The new day of celebration, which will not be a Bank holiday, emerged from a suggestion by the Turner Society that something should be done to commemorate the fact that Turner and Shakespeare, two of the greatest English artists, were born on St George's Day, April 23. The idea grew, but the day was quickly changed to Midsummer's Day after Scottish and Welsh arts bodies pursued their collective lips at the thought of St George's Day.

Sir Hugh, who chaired the first steering group for the festival, said after the birthday discoveries it was decided "Let's have a party. We expected the first arts day would start modestly and hoped it would grow into a big annual event."

Enthusiasm for the first celebration suggests it will not be a small affair. Mr Al

# Mariners' clue to collapse of fisheries

By the Staff of "Nature"

The routine weather observations of a couple of generations of sailors, sweltering off the coasts of Africa and South America, have been marshalled by a group of French oceanographers into important evidence which may affect much of the world's fishing industry.

The scientists, from the Natural History Museum of Paris, the French third world research agency (ORSTOM), and the physical oceanography laboratory at Brest, were interested in the collapse a few years ago of the Peruvian anchovy industry, when the harvest fell sevenfold in one year.

The cause was a sudden change in ocean currents. The Peruvian fisheries (and many others around the world, particularly in equatorial regions, depend on an upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water from the bottom of the ocean. The nutrients feed plankton; the plankton feed the fish; and the fish feed people. In the case of Peru, the fish also feed billions of seabirds, which create guano deposits accounting for a phosphate industry of world importance.

Unfortunately, the currents are unstable; they can change rapidly and massively, so killing the fish which, even if the current eventually returns, takes years to re-establish themselves.

The great oceanographic puzzle is: what causes these changes? Some say there must be local causes; others that long-range waves, acting across whole oceans, can play a part. The French research has shown that at least in one case, the effect is very long-range and, moreover, that the changes in current can be predicted a month in advance.

The current in question was the upwelling in the Gulf of Guinea, the armpit of West Africa. The French team looked at the records of merchant ships plying off Brazil and in the Gulf from 1911 to 1962. The seamen had recorded the surface temperature of the ocean and the strengths of the winds. In present study, the temperature was taken to be an indication of the strength of upwelling; if cold, it would be strong; if warm, weak.

The team discovered no connection between wind strength in the Gulf and the upwelling. But amazingly, the winds off Brazil were connected. If the off-shore Brazilian winds fell slack, then one month afterwards the Gulf of Guinea current failed and warm water replaced the cold.

The precise explanation for the connexion is still to be found, but mathematical oceanographers are not without theories that can be made to fit the case. Large-scale rotational waves called Kelvin waves, which run along coastlines and affect upwelling currents, may be influenced by deep-ocean waves, which in turn are affected by wind stress.

A chain such as that may connect events off the Brazilian coast to the Gulf of Guinea. Similarly, winds in the central Pacific might be the cause of El Niño, the failure of the Peruvian upwelling is called. The knowledge of such connexions will not halt the events that follow, but they may at least give a few weeks' warning of impending disaster.

Source: Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, Paris. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

# No ban on bogus degree

The Government's intention to introduce a ban on bogus degrees was rejected by the House of Commons yesterday.

The bill, which would have made it an offence to sell or offer for sale a bogus degree, was defeated by 100 votes to 70.

The Government had argued that the bill was necessary to protect the public from bogus degrees, which were often sold by unscrupulous individuals.

The opposition argued that the bill was unnecessary, as the existing law already covered the sale of bogus degrees.

The bill was introduced by the Minister of Education, Mr Kenneth Baker.

The vote was taken after a lengthy debate on the bill.

The Minister of Education said that the Government was committed to the introduction of the bill, but that it would not be introduced at this time.

The bill was expected to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

## Mariners' clue to collapse of fisheries

By the Staff of "Nature"

The routine weather observations of a couple of sailors off the coast of Africa and South America have been marshalled by a group of French oceanographers into an important clue to the collapse of the world's fisheries.

The scientists, from the natural history Museum of Paris, the French Centre for research in oceanography (IRSTOM), and the physics department at Brest, were interested in the collapse of the Peruvian fishery, which was a harvest of several million tonnes of fish in 1970.

The cause was a sudden change in ocean currents, which brought cold water from the bottom of the ocean to the surface. This cold water was rich in nutrients, but it was also rich in plankton, which the fish ate.

Unfortunatly, the change was not permanent. The cold water was replaced by warm water, and the fishery collapsed. The scientists are now trying to find out why the change occurred.

The great oceanographic puzzle is what causes these changes. Some say it is the El Niño effect, others say it is a long-term cycle. The scientists are now trying to find out which is correct.

The current in question was the upwelling in the Gulf of Guinea. The French Centre for research in oceanography (IRSTOM) has been studying this current for several years.

The current is a strong flow of water from the bottom of the ocean to the surface. It is caused by the trade winds, which push the water to the right.

The trade winds are a strong flow of wind from the northeast. They push the water to the right, creating a strong current. This current is the upwelling.

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## Anger over tactics on teachers' pay

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Local authority leaders are so angry about the Department of Education and Science's tactics during the Burnham negotiations on teachers' pay on Thursday that they have given formal notice to the Government that they wish to abolish, or radically amend, the 17-year-old "concordat" that lays down the ground rules for negotiations on the management side.

Under the concordat, it is agreed that details of the proceedings on the management panel of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, will not be disclosed in public or even to the teachers' panel.

The concordat also stipulates that the two department representatives on the management panel of 27 will have a weighted vote equal to 15 seats. In addition, they are empowered to veto any award that the secretary of the Secretary of State considers to be too large.

During the lengthy closed-door meeting of the Burnham management panel on Thursday, the Department of Education first used its 15 votes to defeat, with the help of Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA), a proposal by the Association of County Councils (ACC) to increase the employers' pay offer for teachers from 3.4 to 4.5 per cent.

The AMA objected to the 4.5 per cent on the ground that it was too low and would unlikely be accepted by the teachers. The department, however, voted against it because it was too high and too far outside the Government's 4 per cent pay limit.

Then, when the AMA agreed to support a later ACC proposal for a 5.9 per cent offer, on condition that the ACC agree to go to arbitration should that proposal be defeated, the department, used the veto to block the 5.9 per cent offer. They also voted, though unsuccessfully, against arbitration.

So the teachers were never officially offered more than 3.4 per cent, and under the terms of the concordat, no one should be offered anything more than that which was ever considered.

The teachers' 11 to 12 per cent claim now goes to arbitration. The recommendation of the arbitration panel is binding on both sides.

The local authorities feel that they have been left looking foolish, men and women, and that such a stance is not good for relations with the teachers they employ. They also feel that it is futile to waste so much time over negotiation among themselves, only to find it rendered null and void by the Department of Education's veto at the end of the day.

Schools throughout the country were returning to normal yesterday, after more than three weeks of disruption in some cases, as teachers called off their industrial action, having obtained their goal of getting their claim referred to arbitration.

Only in Lincolnshire, north Yorkshire, Mid-Glamorgan, Calderdale and Croydon were sanctions still being imposed by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers in protest against what it claims were anti-union activities by those authorities during the dispute.

**No ban on sale of bogus degrees**

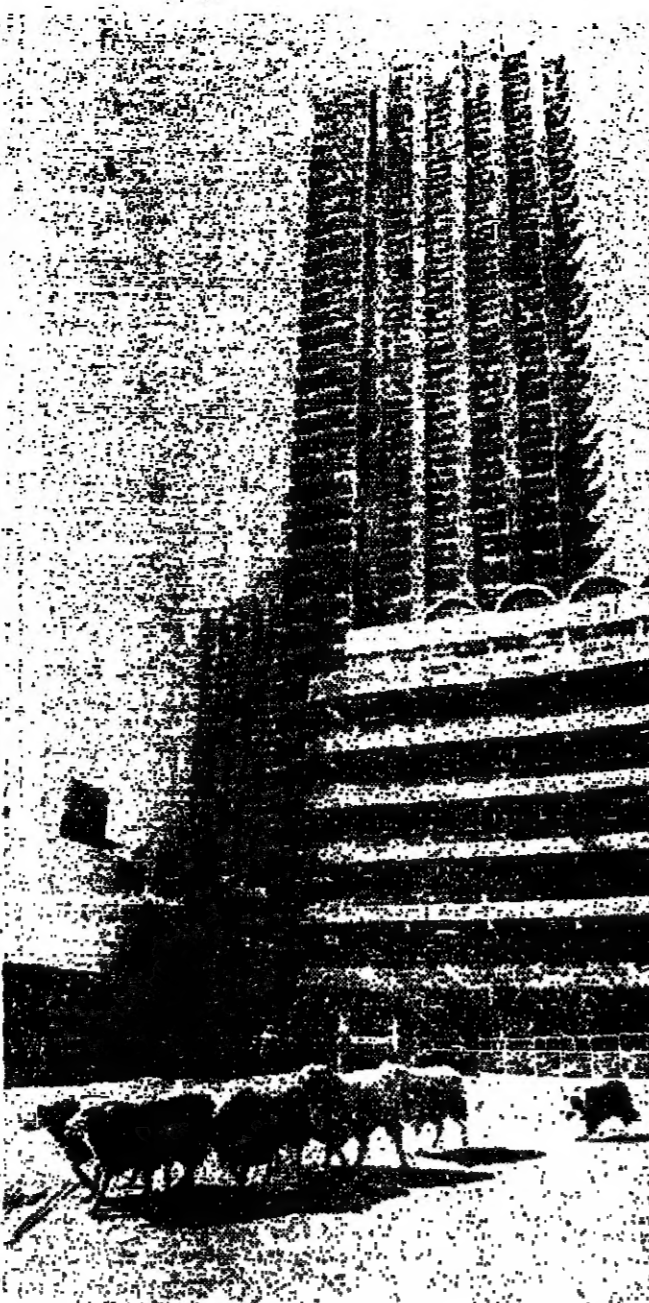
The Government has no intention of the foreseeable future of introducing legislation to ban the sale of bogus degrees and other educational qualifications.

That has been made clear in a letter from Mr William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Education, to Mr Gary Walker, Conservative MP for Brighouse and Spenborough, who had expressed concern about the practice after learning from a recent BBC television programme that considerable sums of money were sometimes involved and that large numbers of people were being misled.

What, how, when and where will our children and grandchildren eat? That was the broad theme of a conference of the food group of the Society of Chemical Industry which ended in London on Thursday. Not surprisingly it failed to reach any firm conclusions.

For example, opinion seemed to be sharply divided between those who believed there would be an ever-increasing demand for convenience foods, and those who thought that increasing leisure would persuade people to see the buying, cooking and eating of food not as a mere necessity but as an occupational pursuit.

Sir James Clemonson, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, spoke of two opposing trends. At one end there would be pressures for larger process-



A sheepdog demonstration in the Sculpture Court at the new Barbican Centre, London, yesterday which ended an event run by ICI Animal Health. The demonstration was provided by Mr Raymond MacPherson and his dog Zac.

## GLC rate challenge by Tories rejected

By David Walker

The latest rates demand of the Labour-controlled Greater London Council yesterday survived a legal challenge mounted by the Conservatives in charge of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Mr Justice McNeill decided in the Divisional Court that the GLC had acted within its powers in making its budget for 1982-83 and he refused to quash its rates precept.

The borough had challenged two items in the budget. £30m for a special reserve to cover unknown variations in the GLC's grant from the Government, and £4.6m to help subsidize former GLC housing now owned by the boroughs.

The judge said the GLC had acted neither illegally nor unreasonably in making those calculations. Before bringing the case, Mr Nicholas Freeman, Kensington's leader, had blamed the 30 per cent increase in the GLC's precept for increasing the borough rates.

In court, Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the borough, emphasized the new legal precedent of the verdict against the GLC in a case brought by the borough of Bromley against the 25 per cent cut in London Transport fares.

He argued that in making its budget, the GLC had discriminated unfairly among the boroughs in trying to manipulate the levels of rate charged on former GLC housing. In making its contingency reserve, the authority had never once considered cutting spending as the alternative to raising the rates.

The full reasons for Mr Justice McNeill's ruling are to be set out later. He said that even if he had found items in the GLC's budget to be illegal, he would still have refused to quash the precept.

Had the precept been found illegal, local government finance in London would have been thrown into chaos even deeper than that surrounding the cheap fares.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GLC, said that interfering with the precept after the new financial year began next week could have drastic repercussions. Once a precept has been made, the GLC cannot make another one. After the ruling, Mr Roy Webster, chief executive of Kensington, said that he would be consulting with Mr Freeman about an appeal.

Both Mr Henderson and Mr Scrivener appear in the Divisional Court again on Monday in what is expected to be a landmark case for local government law.

## Politicians hiding 200 held in Bangladesh

By Our Foreign Staff

More than 200 people, including former ministers, are under arrest and up to 15 political leaders are in hiding, according to the new martial law administration in Bangladesh which took over in a quiet coup on Wednesday.

The Army and police are searching for several former ministers and wealthy businessmen who are likely to go to trial soon in special military courts on corruption charges. Officials say others with large properties will have to explain how they came by their wealth.

General Hossain Muhammad Ershad, the army chief who has taken over as martial law administrator, has made this anti-corruption drive the keystone of his regime, after months of demanding a bigger role for the military in government.

Meanwhile, the ousted President Abus Sarwar, aged 76, remains at his home in Dhacca under police protection. It is unclear whether he is under house arrest.

An elderly, bearded visitor who emerged from Mr Sarwar's house said that the deposed President had been seen by a doctor who had told him to rest. Asked if Mr Sarwar was ill, the visitor replied: "He is an old man".

Those detained this week include four former ministers, a former opposition MP and several officials, according to sources in Dhacca. Three other former ministers were already in detention on embezzlement charges.

Under the martial law rules proclaimed by General Ershad, serious offences can be punishable by death. The arrested officials are said to include Mr Abdus Samad, former chairman of the Bangladesh Development Corporation, Mr Abdul Mannan, former director of the national airline Biman, and Mr Alauddin Shikdar, a former joint-secretary in the Land Reforms Ministry.

The opposition Awami League has welcomed the military takeover, saying it was aimed at eliminating bribery, corruption and favouritism among the ousted Bangladesh National Party led by Mr Sarwar. General Ershad is expected to ask Awami League sympathizers (Kuldeep Nayar writes).

The party's congress in Varanasi has given priority to building a broad anti-imperialist front encompassing the left and Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party.

It appears that the representatives of the Soviet Communist Party at the congress, have played an important role behind the scenes. Their leader, Mr E. A. Shevardnadze, in an open session, praised Mrs Gandhi's independent foreign policy and lauded her government's realistic approach to the main international problems.

A limited alliance with the Congress (I) (Mrs Gandhi's party) has been the theme of speeches by many Communist Party of India members.

The resolution passed unanimously at the congress says the twelfth congress of the CPI fully supports the policy of non-alignment and anti-imperialism, friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, defence of India's sovereignty, independence and integrity, and of solidarity with the national liberation movements and the just struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, racism and Zionism, pursued by Mrs Gandhi.

It was another phase. Although he refused to get involved in a discussion as to whether this meant a pause or not in reforms, it was implicit from what he said that the Government was now embarking on a policy of consolidation, save for the reform of television, and the extension of workers' rights in industry.

The rationale of government policy was to halt unemployment, the Prime Minister said. To do this, the government was planning a series of reforms. 1982 would be the year of investment. He would be having talks with employers soon about reducing production costs. Inflation was slowing down, the Prime Minister said.

There would also be more social progress which benefited millions and was a positive contribution to employment through reduction in working hours, sharing and early retirement. "Never since the Liberation has such a vast programme of social reforms been set in train," he said. It was up to employers and labour to discuss and implement them.

"The Government on the left does not impose change," he said. Although many people preferred the Government to do the change, it was not come about if responsibility for it is not taken over by the social forces."

## Criminal court tries girl aged six

From Chris Thomas, New York, March 26

A six-year-old girl went on trial at Gainesville, Florida, today accused of aggravated battery, a charge that can carry a 15-year jail sentence for convicted adults.

The case has elicited complex arguments about whether a child under the age of seven can be held accountable for criminal acts. Defence lawyers say that under common law in Florida a child of that age lacks the cognitive ability to commit a crime.

Nancy Jo Burch is accused of striking another girl with a stick, leaving her a bloody nose. They are neighbours and have long since patched up their differences, but their mothers failed to agree and prosecutors were reluctantly compelled to press the case.

Sergeant Larry Sikes, who was called in when the attack happened, said he was reluctant to take action. "A lot of times we try to get the parents to handle it and just kind of work out of the problem that way. But they didn't want to do that."

There is little doubt that she is the youngest defendant in a criminal court in Florida's history. Mrs Nancy Nickolls, mother of the seven-year-old girl, who was the victim of the attack, said today that the trial should continue.

"If I let her go now, in five or 10 years she might be committing other crimes because she lost respect for the system."

The girls themselves seem unaware of the legal furore going on around them. Shirley Nickolls, whose nose was healed, said they were friends again. "I push Nancy on the swing and we talk."

Attorneys for both sides were convinced today that the judge would do little more than send the accused children in their parents' custody, or perhaps give them a ticking off.

## 'CORONER TO STARS' SUSPENDED

From Our Correspondent, Los Angeles, March 26

Dr Thomas Noguchi, dubbed by many "the coroner to the stars", has been suspended for 30 days without pay from his \$69,000 (\$38,000-a-year) job while an investigation takes place to see whether he should be dismissed for alleged mismanagement and misuse of his office.

Dr Noguchi has been criticized over the past few weeks because of the way he ran the coroner's office. The number of pending allegations of such seriousness that it is only fair to the public and fair to Dr Noguchi that this be fully investigated," Mr Mike Antonovich, who oversees the coroner's department, said.

The Japanese-born coroner is known throughout the world for his handling of autopsies on the deaths of a long list of famous people. In 1969 Dr Noguchi was missed but reinstated after a long and bitter battle. His suspension is likely to lead to another battle.

Dr Noguchi's lawyer who successfully fought for his reinstatement, said today: "This is going to make 1969 look like child's play."

**Cannon stolen**  
Bristol - The barrel of a rapid fire anti-aircraft gun was stolen from a train in the North Sea port of Emden. The cannon was in a sealed goods wagon in a railway yard when it was dismantled by an expert.

**Rubik championship**  
Budapest - The first Rubik cube world championship will be held here on June 5. National champions from 30 countries have been invited to compete in the to be the fastest time to do the cube.

**Vietnam looks back to five squandered years**  
From David Watts, Singapore, March 26

The fifth congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, which has been postponed twice, opens tomorrow against a background of unprecedented economic, political and organizational problems, yet with the party stubbornly optimistic.

Disagreement over economic policy and the purge of old and corrupt party members appear to have been the main reasons for the delay in opening the congress, which was due to have been held last year.

The contrast with the last congress, in 1976, could scarcely be more marked. Then Vietnam had emerged from the war with the United States to many accolades and good wishes for its reconstruction and development; foreign aid was flowing in; there was the prospect of eventual resumption of diplomatic relations with Washington and the belief that

Vietnam could win real independence by calling on all sides for assistance. In the ensuing five years Vietnam squandered that goodwill and the chance to build on the war's wreckage.

As the congress opens tomorrow, Vietnam stands isolated, defaulting in international loans and struggling to make something of its economy, with most assistance coming from the Soviet Union at the cost of much of Hanoi's hard-won independence. Not surprisingly, there has been disagreement on how to extract the country from the mire.

Increased food production and continued diversification into cereals will figure prominently in the economic programme to be laid down by the congress, as will the need to meet consumer demand which is now fed from outside the country.

## The Kurdish leader Relaxed guerrilla's tight grip

By Edward Mortimer

Masud Rajavi, leader of the People's Mujahidin guerrilla organization, has returned to Kurdistan (by undisclosed routes) within the next two weeks.

In an interview with The Times, Dr Qasemlou described his relations with the Iraqi Government as those of "good neighbours". He shared a common enemy, but the Iranian Kurds were not dependent on Iraqi support, he said. Their supplies reached them partly through Iraq, but they were smuggled in, not sent officially.

Dr Qasemlou has been in Europe for the last six weeks or so, mainly holding discussions with other leaders of the National Resistance Council, led by former President Bani-Sadr and Mr

Dr Qasemlou: Leading fight against Iranian troops

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Dr Qasem

## Central America turmoil

## Washington doubts if behind-scenes diplomacy can work

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 26

The constituent assembly elections in El Salvador this weekend will open a period of intense diplomacy involving the United States, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico and other Central American countries to explore negotiated solutions for the troubled region.

However, American officials are trying to play down speculation that Washington, by agreeing to new talks with Cuba and Nicaragua, is seeking to avoid deeper political and military involvement in Central America.

Officials are somewhat piqued that these behind-the-scenes diplomatic activities should be attracting so much public attention. They attribute this to the Mexicans who have been acting as a go-between in contacts involving the United States, Cuba and Nicaragua and are now trying to propel Washington into a new round of talks.

There is little optimism in Washington that the forthcoming round of diplomacy will succeed in achieving what is Washington's main objective: an understanding by Cuba and Nicaragua to discontinue support for Left-wing insurgents operating in El Salvador, Guatemala and other countries in the region.

Nor is there any expectation that a rapprochement with Cuba and Nicaragua will result from these contacts. Instead, the United States hopes to see an understanding of American public opinion and to pro-Western countries in Latin America that by agreeing to talk to its adversaries

it is prepared to explore every means of reducing bloodshed and turmoil in this region.

The Administration is continuing to keep its cards close to its chest. There has still been no confirmation from Washington that General Vernon Walters, a special envoy, paid a recent visit to Havana, although it now seems certain that such a journey was made.

Nor has there been confirmation that senior American officials will have talks with the Nicaraguan Government early next month. However, reports from Mexico City say that Mr Thomas Enders, Under Secretary of State responsible for Inter-American affairs, will meet Sandinista leaders there soon.

Mr Daniel Ortega, the coordinator of the Nicaraguan junta and chief of state, called for "direct and frank" talks with the United States when he addressed the United Nations Security Council yesterday. Mr James Kirkpatrick, the American representative, was careful not to reject this offer although she was sceptical that progress could be achieved because, she said, the Nicaraguan leader's words did not match his deeds.

For the moment Washington is concentrating its attention on Sunday's election in El Salvador which is seen by the Administration as the event which will determine developments in Central America over the next few months.

## Massive show of force in capital

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 26

Left-wing guerrillas, battling to disrupt this Sunday's elections in El Salvador, had by early today fought their way into the outskirts of two provincial capitals.

The clandestine guerrilla radio station, Radio Venceremos, broadcast interviews with a man said to be the commander of the force attacking Usulután, 80 miles south-east of San Salvador. The radio called on civilians to gather materials needed to make Molotov cocktails.

The town of San Francisco Gotera, the capital of Morazan province, 120 miles north-east of San Salvador, was reported to have been cut off by a guerrilla force.

The guerrillas, operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, have denounced Sunday's elections as a farce.

In other moves designed to disrupt the election, they have stopped buses on highways running across El Salvador and ordered passen-

gers to tear up their identity documents, without which they would be unable to vote. In San Salvador, guerrillas set fire to four buses and a truck carrying soft drinks.

Voters will be choosing 60 members of a Constituent assembly, which will have the power to elect an interim president, draft a new constitution and pass new legislation.

The election is being fought by six parties, five of them extreme right-wing groups opposed to the Christian Democrats, whose leader, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, is President of the ruling civilian-military junta.

The Government has laid out a massive show of force to meet the threat posed by the guerrillas, with troops stationed at intersections throughout the capital, and operation checkpoints on highways.

Apart from the clashes in the north-western district, the country was reported quiet early today.

## Poles pay interest

From Peter Norman, Brussels, March 26

Interest due on Poland's 1981 commercial bank debt is "as good as paid", and the agreement rescheduling some \$2,400 million dollars (about £1,300) of principal should be signed as planned on April 6, according to an official at Dresdner Bank AG in Frankfurt.

After missing several deadlines, Poland has agreed to pay the last of \$500 dollars of back interest owing to its 501 Western bank creditors by today, Dresdner Bank, which has been coordinating the negotiations expects to have confirmation of payment early next year.

The delay in obtaining confirmation was because of

so many banks and several currencies were involved. Once the 1981 rescheduling agreement has been completed, Poland's Western creditors will have to consider rescheduling the \$4,700m of debt due this year.

Washington. — The United States is optimistic that its allies will shortly reach agreement on limiting officially-backed credits to the Soviet Union as a further sanction against its involvement in the imposition of martial law in Poland (Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 26).

## Radio fault threatens the shuttle mission

From Peter Akerman, Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas, March 26

Technicians of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and contractors for the low-energy shuttle Columbia's communications system were struggling today to rectify a fault in one of the orbiter's transponders (radio signalling devices).

Columbia carries two transponders, which are the primary means of communication between the orbiter and ground tracking stations during flight. Each transponder can operate in a high-energy mode and in a low-energy mode. One of the units lost its low-energy capability on Thursday.

The transponders are operated in the high-energy mode during launch, when a stronger signal is needed to punch through the interference created by the craft's passage through the earth's atmosphere.

Low-energy mode is used for the majority of communication once the shuttle is in orbit. All communication with the shuttle's computers passes through the transponders, but there is a back-up ultra-high frequency system which can be used for voice communication only.

This is the fourth day of the reusable craft's third mission.

The mission can continue to the scheduled reentry on Monday if the remaining communications are not lost, but should the high-energy capability on the faulty transponder fail during repairs, NASA mission rules call for the flight to end.

The rules state clearly that the shuttle must return as soon as possible if one of the two transponders fails.

The astronauts, Colonel Jack Lousma and Colonel Gordon Fullerton and their crew, have sufficient fuel to extend the mission by two days or more if bad weather should prevent a landing at the Army's White Sands mission range in New Mexico on Monday.

The repairs to the transponder did not overly concern the astronauts today as they performed more tests on the shuttle's remote-controlled arm. For the second day in succession they used it to pluck a plasma measuring device from the ship's cargo bay to gauge the amount of disturbance created by the shuttle.

## MEPs vote for 14pc farm prices increase

From George Clark, Strasbourg, March 26

Members of the European Parliament decided today to recommend a 14 per cent increase in farm prices in 1982-83. They turned down the arguments of both the EEC Commission for a 9 per cent rise, and of the farmers for a 16.3 per cent increase.

The MEPs approved a resolution from the Parliament's agriculture committee, recommending a 14 per cent increase, which they regarded as taking fair account of increased farm costs, the drop in farm incomes in the past three years, and high interest and inflation rates.

With members from farming areas in the majority, Parliament brushed aside warnings from city-based members, such as Mr Brian Hord, Conservative MEP for London, West, that the Committee's recommendation would only fuel inflation through higher prices to consumers. He said it would also lead to larger surpluses, to be financed by European taxpayers, which would be sold off at cut prices to Russia.

Mr Hord achieved one notable success however. He secured approval for his recommendation that the Commission and Council of Ministers should reconsider the plan to give high subsidies for the conversion of Europe's huge wine surplus into industrial alcohol.

Representatives of British oil and chemical industries have already protested against the EEC plan, which threatens the jobs of people employed at industrial alcohol plants in Grangemouth and other places in Britain.

Less than 300 of the 434 MEPs were present for the vote. The chamber then rapidly emptied, and there was no quorum to vote on a strongly-worded motion appealing to the Council of Ministers to make a supreme effort on April 3 to settle their differences over the restructuring of the European Budget.



Speedy Gurkha: Corporal Gobinda Rai winner of this year's Khud Race up Nameless Hill (background) in Hongkong. The 1 mile 614 yard race dates from the Gurkhas' days on India's North West Frontier.

## Polisario dispute

## OAU leaders seek end to rift

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 26

Intense diplomatic activity is under way in several African capitals this weekend in an effort to extricate the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from the most serious crisis in its 19-year history.

The original cause of the rift among the 50 member nations was a decision last month to admit the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as the fifty-first member at a foreign ministers' meeting in Addis Ababa.

Morocco, which does not recognize the republic, and regards Western Sahara as part of its own territory, walked out in protest, followed by 18 other members.

This was followed by a walkout by 13 members from an information ministers' meeting in Dakar this month. They objected to a decision by Senegal, the meeting's host and a close ally of Morocco, not to allow a Saharan delegation to the meeting when they arrived at Dakar airport.

These developments have made many African diplomats wonder whether it will be possible to hold the organization's summit this year, scheduled to take place in the Libyan capital in

August, and some even expressed fears for the organization's future.

Morocco has now launched a diplomatic offensive and King Hassan's envoys are visiting many African capitals urging a special summit to discuss the crisis.

The fact that concern for the organization's future is not confined to Morocco and its backers, who do not recognize the Polisario guerrilla movement as a government, is best illustrated by the action of Togo, a country which does recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

The Togolese authorities said in an official statement that to prevent the disintegration of the organization, the republic's membership should be suspended and a special restricted meeting of the organization's heads of state held.

President Saka Stevens of Sierra Leone, whose government has recognized the republic but expressed reservations about the way it was admitted to the organization at the Addis Ababa meeting, arrived in Rabat yesterday for talks on the issue.

Sierra Leone is one of seven members of a special

committee of the organization which is trying to arrange a referendum in the Western Sahara so that the territory's nomadic inhabitants may determine their own future.

One of the reasons that even some of the Polisario's backers have doubts about the wisdom of recognizing the Polisario as a government is that this appears inconsistent when the organization is also officially committed to trying to resolve the argument about who should be ruling the area.

The Polisario's main backers have been Algeria and Libya, and though it has said that the planned special meeting would be worth about 4.6 per cent, after inflation had been taken into account, and that a rise of at least 10 per cent was needed for Japan to protect its air space and sea lanes out to a distance 1,000 miles from the mainland.

Mr Weinberger's efforts to persuade Japan to do more in its own defence reflect a mounting belief in America that Japan has an obligation to increase its expenditure to offset its highly favourable trade balance with the United States. — Reuters

## Weinberger appeals to Japan

Tokyo, March 26. — Mr Casper Weinberger the American Defence Secretary, opened a campaign today to persuade Japan to spend more on defence.

In a major policy speech, in a meeting with Soichiro Ito, the Japanese Defence Minister and at a press conference, he said that the United States was pleased with Japan's plans to increase military spending by 7.75 per cent this year. He said, however, that more was needed to meet the growing threat of the Soviet Pacific Fleet.

A senior American official said that the planned spending increase was actually worth about 4.6 per cent, after inflation had been taken into account, and that a rise of at least 10 per cent was needed for Japan to protect its air space and sea lanes out to a distance 1,000 miles from the mainland.

Mr Weinberger's efforts to persuade Japan to do more in its own defence reflect a mounting belief in America that Japan has an obligation to increase its expenditure to offset its highly favourable trade balance with the United States. — Reuters

## TELEPHONE OFFICIAL SHOT DEAD

San Sebastian, Spain, March 26. Two gunmen shot dead the director of the telephone company in this Basque town today, 17 months after his predecessor was assassinated by separatist guerrillas.

Diego Jimenez, aged 54, was shot as he walked home from his office. His police guard was seriously wounded.

Nine people have now died in political violence in the Basque country this year. In March, the unified and terrorist command set up a year ago to step up the fight against guerrillas, said police had detained 1,260 suspected urban guerrillas and had seized more than 600 firearms and a tonne of explosives over the past 15 months. — Reuters

## Soldier killed

Kampala. — A hand grenade exploded on board a passenger train killing a Ugandan Army soldier who was touring with it and two civilian passengers.

## East German pastors back young pacifist

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 26

East German Protestant pastors will speak from their pulpits in defence of young pacifists tomorrow after an attempt by the Communist regime to crack down on the burgeoning peace movement.

The authorities have banned, under threat of severe punishment, the wearing of arm patches bearing the biblical words "swords and ploughshares" (Micah 4:3).

The patches also depict the statue of a man beating a sword into a ploughshare given by the Soviet Union to the United Nations.

They had been adopted by numbers of young Christians as a protest not only against American nuclear missiles — as the authorities would have wanted — but against all weapons in East and West.

Those who disobey risk being expelled from their schools, colleges or universities, forbidden to take exams or refused apprenticeships. It amounts to the destruction of their prospects for a career or a good job.

East German police have reportedly already begun stopping young people in the street and making them rip off their patches. Saxony Church leaders say the regime has told them it considers the patches have been "missed to imply a hostile attitude to the state and participation in an illegal political movement".

It also indicates that it sees the movement as a challenge to the state's claim to be the champion of peace. In the state's view, peace must be armed and soviet missiles guarantee peace while Nato's planned missiles mean a new danger of war.

The announcement to be read from the pulpits throughout Saxony, in the centre of East Germany, says the Church firmly rejects the suggestion that the patches indicate political hostility. The message was drawn up by the Synod and leaders of the Saxony Protestant Church on Wednesday

and says that the Church's role is to support the state's peace policy and to oppose the use of force.

The statistics point to a steady decrease in violence with a consequent improvement in academic standards. But it is bewildering to see children being chased down the street by an armed policeman merely for playing truant.

## Full job policing Brooklyn's schools

From Christopher Thomas, New York, March 26

Uniformed guards are stationed at key points, walkie-talkies are crackling and echoing down long, bare corridors, and an armed policeman is patrolling outside. It is home-time at Midwood High School.

An anxious voice shouts out of the walkie-talkies: "A leather coat's been nicked from the girls' locker room." All nine guards are immediately on full alert, their eyes searching the sea of children now pouring noisily out of several exits. But it is hopeless.

There is pandemonium in the dean's office. He is in a foul mood. He slams the door, launches himself into a chair, and glares angrily at the gesticulating other side of the desk. "Why didn't you lock your locker? That's what the blasted thing's for."

He telephones her mother. Then he takes dictation, including the names of possible suspects, and a full investigation is launched. Known associates of all suspects will be questioned, the suspects will be closely watched as well as suspected. Parents may be contacted.

The coast should be back in 48 hours. Known gang and group leaders will be told: "Get that coat back or we'll give you trouble." It usually works, especially if the thief is promised a pardon.

Highly organized security operation exists in all high and junior high schools in the many troubled areas of New York City. The presence of guards, the fact that they are necessary in almost every school, is almost a cliché. But hear them talk as though they are policing a grim, criminal underground of robbery, drugs and violence is chilling.

Mr David Hochstetler is supervisor of one of the many mobile security task forces ready to move into school in the event of trouble too big for the in-house guards to handle.

He wears a silver badge issued by the Office of School Safety, part of the Department of Education. He hears them talk as though they are policing a grim, criminal underground of robbery, drugs and violence is chilling.

Several schools come in his bailiwick but this school, in Brooklyn, one of the best state schools in the area though it has the potential for a racial explosion.

It is 49 per cent white, 35 per cent black, and the rest are Oriental or Hispanic. "We have the League of Nations," says Mr Leonard Harrison, the principal. He maintains exceptionally tight discipline, which he believes has stopped the school from becoming another slum school.

The school is protected by wire and heavy doors and visitors must report of a security guard at the entrance. "Safety," the principal emphasises, "is paramount. You cannot do anything until your school is secure."

Much the same attitude is taken at the new Utrecht High School, also in Brooklyn, but in a solidly white area. The only black pupils are bussed in and trouble can flare at a moment's notice.

Police officer Tommy Mulhearn has patrolled the streets for six years. He defends the need to carry a gun by producing a heavy knife from his pocket.

"These are what many kids carry," he said. "I've never needed to use the gun. It is there as a deterrent."

The statistics point to a steady decrease in violence with a consequent improvement in academic standards. But it is bewildering to see children being chased down the street by an armed policeman merely for playing truant.

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## CONCERTS

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

PALM SUNDAY 4TH APRIL

AT 6.30 P.M.

REQUIEM DURELLE

Beatus Vir Monteverdi

The Holy Sepulchre

Conductor: Hilary Owen

Organist: Philip Moore

Admission Free Collection

TUESDAY 6TH APRIL

AT 6.00 P.M.

ST. JOHN PASSION Bach

The Cathedral Choir

The London Bach Orchestra

Conductor: Barry Rose

Admission Free Collection

GOOD FRIDAY 9TH APRIL

AT 6.00 P.M.

ST. MATTHEW PASSION Bach

Peter Hall

The Cathedral Choir

The London Bach Orchestra

Conductor: Barry Rose

Admission Free Collection

LONDON CANTATA CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Peter Moore

Tickets £4.00, £3.00, £2.00

From the Friends of the Cathedral

Admission Free Collection

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis

Admission Free Collection

## ENTERTAINMENTS

16th-17th APRIL

17th APRIL

17th APRIL

17th APRIL

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## THEATRES

A CREDIT THEATRE BOOKING

SERVICE - CHILDREN'S

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## APOLLO THEATRE

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

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on Christopher Thomas  
New York, March 26

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A week before that, on a  
fine spring evening we put on  
wellingtons and went for a  
walk in the meadows. We  
were really hoping to see the  
baby hares. Almost every  
morning in March, I had  
looked out across this field,  
and the rise that leads up  
from it, to see hares behaving  
in that legendary way, going  
mad, racing about in circles,  
the males boxing one another  
to impress the females.

The field was full, not only  
of buttercups and cowslips,  
but of that pretty plant of the  
wet meadows, lady's smock,

which is a delicate, mauve  
colour. But, otherwise, all  
was yellow, for spring is  
yellow, from the first, pow-  
dery pale catkins on the  
trees, in February, to the  
dandelions, yellowest of all.

We turned up the slope,  
began to climb a stile be-  
tween the hawthorn hedges,  
and froze on top. In the  
great field below us, that  
stretches right down to Fen  
Farm, and is mainly grazed  
by sheep, were the hares,  
dozens of them, with parties  
of leverets, racing about,  
playing, feeding on the  
young grass in the early  
evening sunlight.

We watched and watched,  
and then one of us moved a  
foot, or made some other,  
slight noise. One hare  
stopped dead, then another,  
sat on hind legs, ears pricked  
and quivering, and then, in  
all directions, they ran,  
incredibly fast, the young  
following, making desperate  
little squeals, and in seconds  
they were gone, the field was  
entirely empty and still.

All around us, on our first  
spring at Moon Cottage, wild  
animals and birds were  
breeding, and in and around  
the village the farm animals  
and the dogs and cats bred,  
too, and my daughter Jessica  
looked at the 10 Labrador  
puppies from Church Cottage  
and the cat Hrothgar's first  
of two regular annual litters  
of kittens and at Mrs Plum's  
newly-hatched silky bantams,  
and the milk-white calf in the  
Buttercup field, and said at  
last, "But we only have an  
old cat and some hens  
whose eggs don't get babies",  
and so, by choice and chance,  
we began to extend the  
family.

In the beginning, there was  
the cat Hastings, mine for 16  
years, fat, somnolent, par-  
tially blind, touchy. She had  
not taken kindly to the  
not taken kindly to the  
arrival of husband and  
daughter, and grew intro-  
spective and resentful, but,  
worst of all in Jessica's view,  
she was neutered. And so we  
acquired Polly.

Polly was a London-born  
kitten, orphaned at three  
weeks, when her exquisitely

elegant mother Herodia was  
killed by a car, and reared by  
human hand, together with  
her two brothers, so that she  
came to us another three  
weeks later, more used to  
people than usual. She was  
very small, with hair that  
stuck out in all directions  
like a sooty halo. For a week,  
the older cat ignored her, in  
a puzzled sort of way, per-  
haps scarcely able to see

her, and Polly clung close to  
us. Then, one morning, she  
was off, like a ball of fire,  
jumping on Hastings from  
the tops of tables and chairs  
and window-ledge, chasing  
her tail and swinging on it,  
teasing her, biting and mew-  
ling, and the old cat stirred  
and began to rumble like a  
smouldering volcano, and  
then, late one night, erupted.

It took a month for the fires  
to die down, and even now,  
though Polly is calmer and  
wiser, she sometimes feels  
provocative, there is a skir-  
mish and a shower of sparks.  
We got Polly so that Polly  
would get kittens, at least for  
a year or two, for there is no  
more delightful way of in-  
structing a child about the  
way all creatures mate and  
give birth and suckle and  
mother their young, and of  
teaching her tenderness and  
respect and responsibility  
towards all living things.

The village husband to  
every un-neutered female cat  
is Charlie Sleepy, a battle-  
scarred, monster, half-wild,  
altogether fierce, whom no  
one has ever been able to  
catch to have spayed, and  
perhaps they haven't tried  
too hard, for it would surely  
be wrong to submit that  
full-blooded tom of all toms to  
such indignity and humili-  
ation. But Charlie Sleepy has  
lots of wives, and Polly is not  
the nearest, so perhaps it will  
be some time before she  
presents us with kittens.

What finally put paid to the  
sparing of the Moon Cottage  
cats was not sense or  
maturity or any chaste-ment  
but, simply, the arrival of a  
dog, which united them in  
(temporary) feline outrage.

No dogs, I had always said,  
and I would still never keep a  
dog if we lived in the town,  
nor ever have a puppy,  
either. I find puppies tiresomely  
destructive, fawning,  
puddling creatures. The only  
dogs I care for are work  
dogs, and dogs that know  
their place, dogs that behave,  
and are treated like dogs and  
dogs alone.

For two years, Jessica had  
an imaginary dog called Tree  
Trunk. He was my ideal,  
invisible and silent. There  
was one dog, though:  
scruffy little, brown-faced  
terrier belonging to old Miss  
Reevers, in the last cottage  
down the lane. He used to  
peer out between her net  
curtains if one went by, and  
trotted up the lane past Moon  
Cottage once every day, on a  
lonely outing. I liked his  
face. That, I said, is the only

sort of dog I would have.  
Then, Miss Reeves was ill,  
and died, and the dog, whose  
name was Tinker, needed a  
home. Within a week, he had  
his feet under our table and  
a place in all our hearts. I was  
right about him, he is the  
perfect dog, quick-witted,  
cheerful, willing and grateful  
and moderately obedient. He  
looks like every small boy's  
terrier, small and wiry and  
spry. He chased the cats up  
the apple tree until we  
realized how strongly we  
disapproved, and now, al-  
though he gives every other  
cat in Barley a run for its  
life, ours he leaves alone, in  
spite of their provocations.

He is affectionate but not  
sloppy, anxious to please,  
and he retains a streak of  
purest independence. He is  
what Moon Cottage needed  
all along.

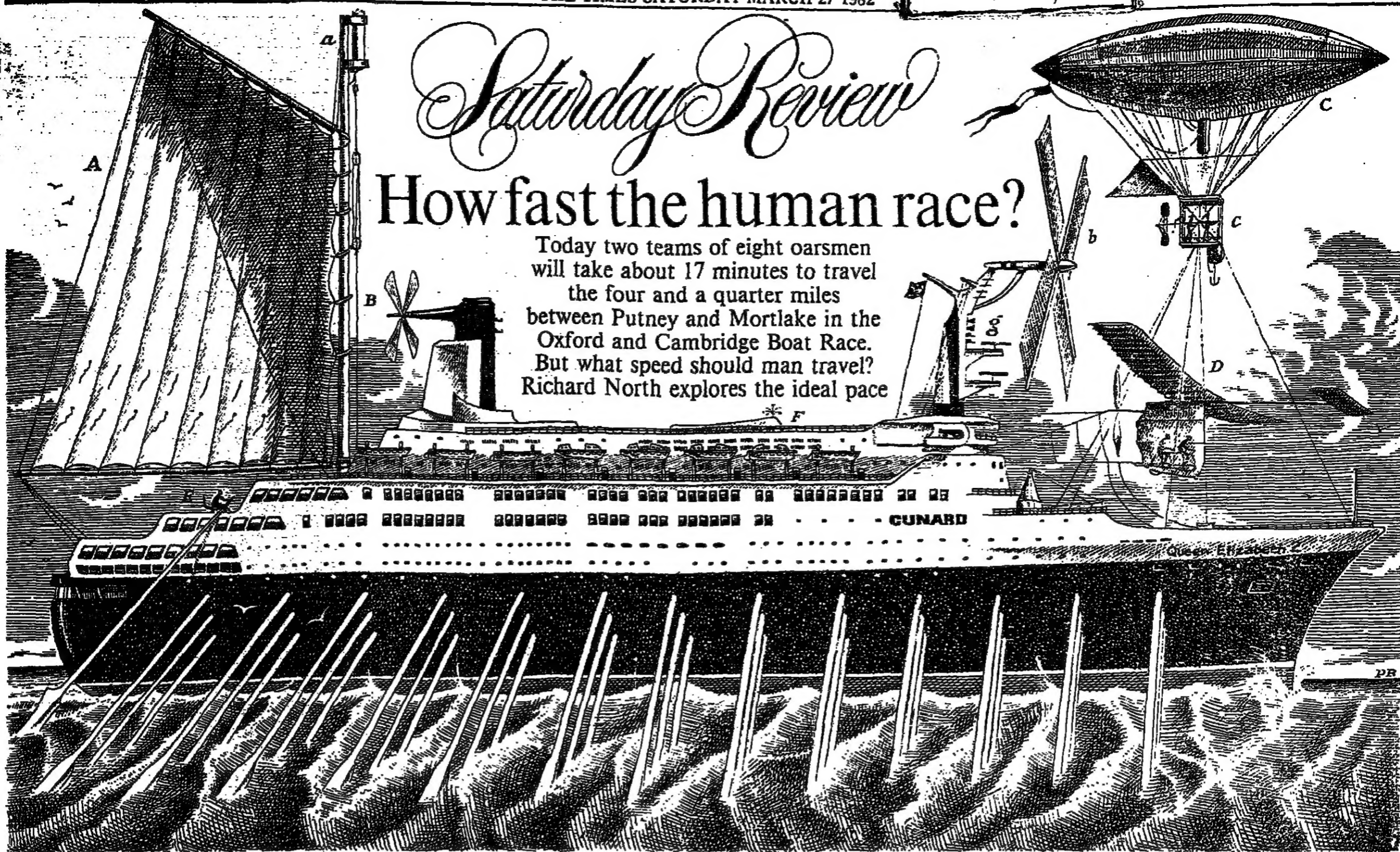
These articles are edited  
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Apple Tree*, by Susan Hill,  
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Hamilton on April 29.

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## Saturday Review

### How fast the human race?

Today two teams of eight oarsmen  
will take about 17 minutes to travel  
the four and a quarter miles  
between Putney and Mortlake in the  
Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race.  
But what speed should man travel?  
Richard North explores the ideal pace



Is man, like a gramophone  
record, the possessor of a  
proper speed? Is there some  
wonderful thirty-three-and-a-  
third we should seek for the  
well-being of our health and  
spirits? What sort of journeys  
should we hope to make?

A couple of skinny coves, to  
take today's obvious example,  
will get an exciting ride this  
afternoon: Putney to Mortlake,  
four-and-a-quarter miles, in  
about 17 minutes, with an  
average speed coming up to 15  
miles an hour.

Fifteen mph is very fast  
indeed in a rowing boat, but  
taxes even those athletes who  
can generate one horse power  
for nearly ten minutes at a  
stretch. But, as it happens, this  
pleasant speed (a fit cyclist can  
keep it up all day) is hopelessly  
fast for even a modern cruise  
liner (more of which later); and  
oil is in finite supply, even if  
Oxbridge undergraduates are  
not.

A Greek trireme might man-  
age 12 knots on its day, but not  
for long. Cleverly organised,  
and its well-paid rowers (cash  
incentivised, not slaves)  
really going some, it might  
average nine knots over 24  
hours. But the twentieth cen-  
tury, whose Promethean am-  
bitions are boundless, wants to  
go faster than that: Concorde,  
the image of our time, follows  
our recent tradition in sacrific-  
ing everything for speed. It  
goes more than twice the speed  
of sound, but uses more than  
twice the fuel of other modern  
jets.

Concorde will take a passen-  
ger — and so will a Rolls Royce  
— around 30 miles for a gallon of  
fuel. Even in a jumbo a  
passenger will "consume" up  
to four times his own body-  
weight in juice to cross the  
Atlantic; outside the rich world  
few people use that much, all  
told in a year.

Napoleon *va a la même  
lentour que César*, said Valéry:  
what Napoleon achieved, he  
achieved at Caesar's pace. So  
going fast is no prerequisite of  
greatness. Perhaps, even there  
are speed-stunned people who  
go everywhere and see nothing,  
and pressured moguls who

understand nothing of what  
other people want because they  
are in permanent culture  
shock, perpetually jet-lagged.  
Ivan Illich, the clearest philo-  
sopher about this century, calls  
these people "the powerfully  
rushed". Thoreau, a man too  
smug to be much fun, none-  
theless got his antennae firmly on  
to the matter with his notion:  
"The swiftest traveller is he  
that goes afoot."

But the rest of the nineteenth  
century was busy on its mind-  
bending business of accelera-  
tion: between 1837 and 1900  
the average speed of mail  
coaches (they had changed  
from muscle to coal as the  
 motive power) rose from less  
than 9 mph to something like 40  
mph. In 1837 there had been  
3,126 stage and mail coaches  
carrying people. So increased  
was the expectation of travel  
brought in by the train that it  
would have needed a quarter of  
a million coaches to satisfy the  
new demand.

For short journeys, people-  
power can be very elegant, and  
its speed the sort to suit  
Napoleon, Caesar and Thoreau.  
Bryan Allen pedalled across the  
Channel in June 1979 in a plane  
which weighed 70 lbs and had a  
wing span greater than that of  
a 120,000lb DC8. He wafted  
himself 23 miles in two hours,  
49 minutes, lost about 1 lb in  
sweat, hurt a lot, and got a firm  
place in the history books. This  
is the class of man who can  
pump out a third of a horse-  
power for maybe three hours,  
and in bursts, treble that. On an  
ordinary bike, he might manage  
42 mph for 200 metres (the  
current record), and cut a dash  
on roller skates at over 20 mph;  
given streamlining, he could  
get a bike to do 58 mph, and  
— with the addition of friend  
— might make a streamlined  
 tandem go 62.92 mph. (These  
are the standards set by the  
International Human Powered  
Vehicle Association, which now  
has a London representative  
and runs competitions here.)

Even an ordinary, sedentary  
commuter on a bike can  
manage 12 mph in London's  
rush hour (and at the energy  
equivalent to 1600 miles per

gallon) while the buses are  
down below walking pace. But  
London's rush hour never was  
where anyone wanted to be:  
and raising one's sights to the  
North Atlantic and New York,  
poses tougher problems.  
Especially for eco-freaks. Pol-  
ish Ocean Lines will take you in  
nine days from Hamburg to  
New York, or Tilbury to  
Montreal. Otherwise, there are  
planes which cannot be energy  
efficient or roomy until a more  
sensible generation of  
machines are ushered in. The  
airship — which may civilise  
our skies one day — is not  
currently seen as a long haul  
option for passengers, even at  
120 mph.

Perhaps there will be some  
development along the lines of  
the solar-powered Challenger,  
which flew across the Channel  
last year: the sun can give her  
nearly four horse power and  
she will plod along at one horse  
power.

I cannot fancy repeating the  
18 soggy trans-Atlantic cross-  
ings that the brilliant cheapie  
voyager, and writer, Tristan  
Jones, has sailed, nine of them  
alone: "and the slowest isn't  
the worst, by any means", he  
says. But Bern Porter, a retired  
nuclear physicist whom I met  
on QE2 last year, is very clear:  
"People want the best, and in

this goddam century, that  
means the fastest".  
So he and about 2,000 passen-  
gers and 1,000 crew were being  
hurled across the ocean at a  
steady 28.5 knots, a rate of  
passage that has given QE2  
nearly 2 million miles on the  
clock after 12 years' work.  
Queen Mary, herself no slouch,  
took 31 years to notch up 3  
million. However, in consola-  
tion, the first Queen Elizabeth  
used twice as much energy per  
passenger mile as her sleek,  
yachtlike heir. QE2 is of the  
1960s as hubristic as moon  
travel: she whips around the  
world in 80 days, and crosses  
the Atlantic in a long weekend,  
at a pace which would serve for  
an elephant's water-skiing trial.

She does nothing to fulfill  
the dream of Ivan Illich in his  
seminal *Energy and Equity* that  
"free people must travel the  
road to productive social re-  
lations at the speed of the  
bicycle". QE2 is good on the  
"productive human relations"  
bit. But with prices that touch a  
quarter of a million dollars for  
the top suite for the circum-  
navigation, she's not particu-  
larly democratic.

The price of travel is nearly  
as important as its other tolls.  
Illich quotes this sum, which  
has a wonderful absurdity  
(though, bar powerful swim-

ming, it is not directly appli-  
cable on the Atlantic): the  
average American has been  
spending 1,600 hours earning  
the money that is spent on the  
average motorist's 7,500 annual  
miles. This is a mile/time ratio  
that "delivers" a speed of less  
than five miles an hour. Better  
to have walked, rather than  
worked, for the same effect.  
Going slowly may be the best  
answer to unemployment yet.

Speed, pollution, price are all  
in the balance. Not only do  
people have to rediscover their  
right speed, each machine must  
find one too. A jumbo takes  
one passenger about 70 miles  
for a gallon of juice. A cruise  
liner takes him about 12 miles.  
Yet still one can insist that the  
liner is the right way of travel:  
it contains among its possi-  
bilities that of going slowly  
enough to annihilate its fuel  
consumption. Going a sensible  
speed, the jumbo would fall out  
of the sky.

The exponential graph of fuel  
bit. But with prices that touch a  
quarter of a million dollars for  
the top suite for the circum-  
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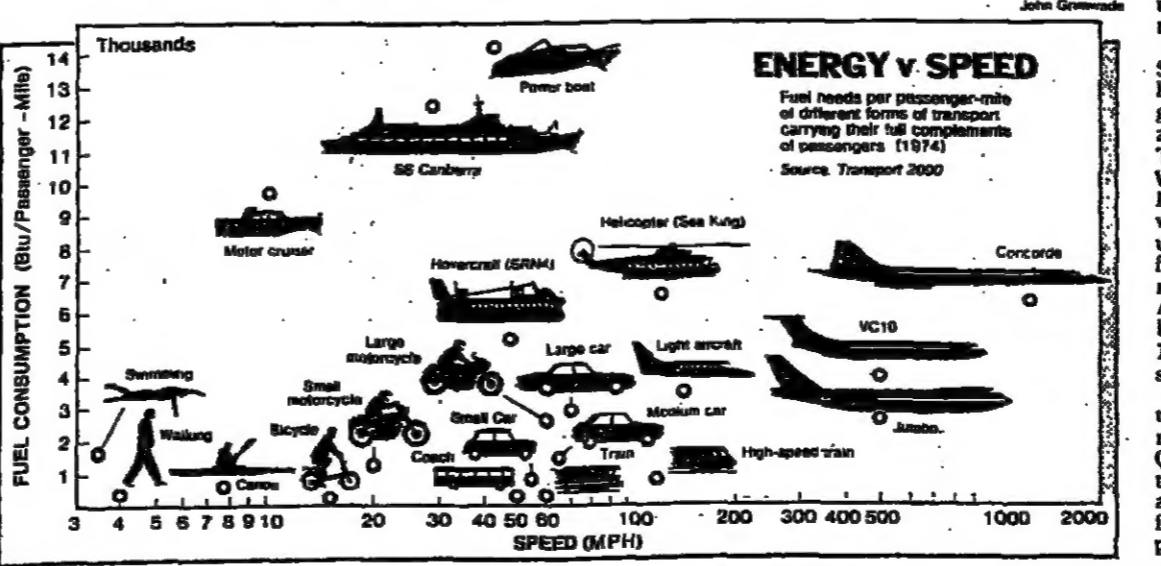
sluices down 23 tons of fuel an  
hour (within that, she is  
burning five tons an hour just  
as a mobile hotel.) But at 16  
knots (a seven-day Atlantic  
crossing), and the norm in the  
1870s) her steaming require-  
ment comes down to 8.9 tons.  
At nine knots she slips along at  
6.3 tons an hour.

"Why mature a whiskey for  
twelve years and then rush-  
freight it across the world?"  
said a shipping man as we  
sipped wardroom sherries and  
swapped the kind of confi-  
dences that make ships and  
trains the only way to travel.  
But the complex is the enemy  
of the simple, even within  
transport modes. British Rail,  
like shipping firms, have an  
awkward decision between the  
fuel economies their new tech-  
nologies could deliver and the  
customer's demand that their  
best efforts go into making  
trains and boats compete with  
planes. A sensible train will take  
a passenger 650 miles on a  
gallon of fuel, but BR stole a  
third of the traffic when they  
got to 100mph on the London-  
Manchester run, and now they  
want a four hours 15 minute  
run to Glasgow. The APT will  
run on the same amount of fuel  
which drove the old diesels. But  
the engineers could have de-  
signed a real gas-sipper if it had  
not been that the marketing  
men bullied them into speed.

Fighting back is not easy.  
Skipper John Duddington and  
his bosses, however, proved a  
good deal when he inaugurated  
a new grain trade between  
Tilbury and Coxes Lock Mill,  
Weybridge, last year. His Trent  
Barge, Clinton, takes 65 tons of  
wheat at up to eight mph, but  
uses a quarter of the combined  
fuel requirement of the three  
noisy juggernauts he replaces.  
A tug towing 1,000 tons of  
barges and goods uses around  
15 gallons per hour for the  
same speed.

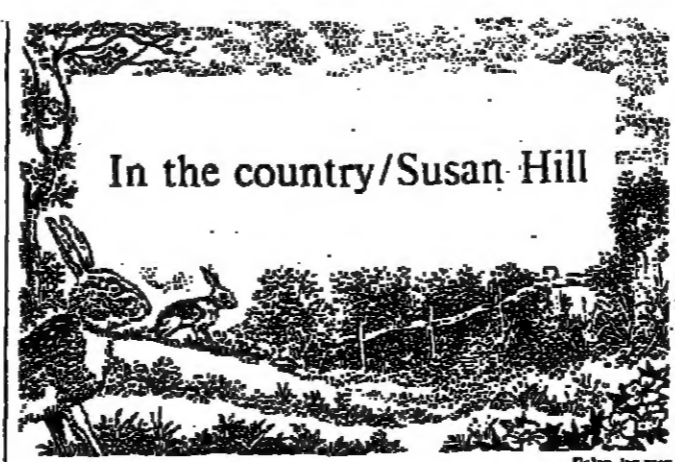
And so we come back always  
to the sea and the water's  
magic for long haul perfection.  
QE2 has her failings, but she is  
the heir of Cook and Drake for  
all that. She asserts that  
friendship, romance, thought,  
prayer, meditation or disco

At her normal 28.5 knots she



## Creatures of the village

In the country/Susan Hill



It took a month for the fires  
to die down, and even now,  
though Polly is calmer and  
wiser, she sometimes feels  
provocative, there is a skir-  
mish and a shower of sparks.  
We got Polly so that Polly  
would get kittens, at least for  
a year or two, for there is no  
more delightful way of in-  
structing a child about the  
way all creatures mate and  
give birth and suckle and  
mother their young, and of  
teaching her tenderness and  
respect and responsibility  
towards all living things.

The village husband to  
every un-neutered female cat  
is Charlie Sleepy, a battle-  
scarred, monster, half-wild,  
altogether fierce, whom no  
one has ever been able to  
catch to have spayed, and  
perhaps they haven't tried  
too hard, for it would surely  
be wrong to submit that  
full-blooded tom of all toms to  
such indignity and humili-  
ation. But Charlie Sleepy has  
lots of wives, and Polly is not  
the nearest, so perhaps it will  
be some time before she  
presents us with kittens.

What finally put paid to the  
sparing of the Moon Cottage  
cats was not sense or  
maturity or any chaste-ment  
but, simply, the arrival of a  
dog, which united them in  
(temporary) feline outrage.

No dogs, I had always said,  
and I would still never keep a  
dog if we lived in the town,  
nor ever have a puppy,  
either. I find puppies tiresomely  
destructive, fawning,  
puddling creatures. The only  
dogs I care for are work  
dogs, and dogs that know  
their place, dogs that behave,  
and are treated like dogs and  
dogs alone.

For two years, Jessica had  
an imaginary dog called Tree  
Trunk. He was my ideal,  
invisible and silent. There  
was one dog, though:  
scruffy little, brown-faced  
terrier belonging to old Miss  
Reevers, in the last cottage  
down the lane. He used to  
peer out between her net  
curtains if one went by, and  
trotted up the lane past Moon  
Cottage once every day, on a  
lonely outing. I liked his  
face. That, I said, is the only

sort of dog I would have.  
Then, Miss Reeves was ill,  
and died, and the dog, whose  
name was Tinker, needed a  
home. Within a week, he had  
his feet under our table and  
a place in all our hearts. I was  
right about him, he is the  
perfect dog, quick-witted,  
cheerful, willing and grateful  
and moderately obedient. He  
looks like every small boy's  
terrier, small and wiry and  
spry. He chased the cats up  
the apple tree until we  
realized how strongly we  
disapproved, and now, al-  
though he gives every other  
cat in Barley a run for its  
life, ours he leaves alone, in  
spite of their provocations.

He is affectionate but not  
sloppy, anxious to please,  
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After the Hillhead euphoria, tough questions for the SDP Liberal Alliance

# Good for the Alliance, better for Labour

by Ivor Crewe

Of the four by-elections in Great Britain since the launch of the Social Democratic Party, Hillhead is by far the trickiest to assess. Compared with the polls 10 days ago, Mr Jenkins' victory seems impressive. Compared with the assumption shared by the media and the SDP's electoral advisers in January that professional-cum-academic Hillhead was natural SDP territory, a "silver seat" in Alliance language, the 6 per cent majority looks less spectacular.

Moreover, interpretation of the result is complicated by the Scottish National Party, and also by the fact that, setting aside nationalist support, the Labour Party in Scotland has consistently appeared in the polls to be more durable, and the Alliance less alluring, than in England. The bare statistics of the Hillhead result are, therefore, easy to misinterpret.

To the naked eye the Alliance's bandwagon continued to roll, but more slowly. Its 33 per cent share of the vote was well down on Warrington (42 per cent), Croxdon, NW (40 per cent) and Crosby (49 per cent). The swings to the Alliance from the Conservatives (16.8 per cent) and from Labour (13.8 per cent) were certainly substantial by post-war standards, but well below those recorded in the three 1981 contests (see table). Whatever its historical significance may be, it was not a by-election for the psephological record books.

Examination of desertion rates from the two main parties, however, does point to one consistent feature of the Alliance's advance (see the right hand columns of the table). Roughly a third of the 1979 Conservative vote appears to be winnable by the Alliance (unless it is subject to a tactical squeeze in Warrington, in which case the proportion is higher); roughly a fifth of the traditional, heavy industrial, working-class Labour vote — of the kind found in Warrington and the shipyard enclaves of Hillhead — is also winnable by the Alliance.

The short-term electoral implications are worse for the Conservatives than Labour; but in the long-term it is surely the Labour Party, the official Opposition in a period of deep recession, which looks most vulnerable.

Under the psephologist's microscope, however, the Alliance's health appears a little more robust. First, one can add the 282 votes of the phoney Roy Jenkins, almost

**'On new constituency boundaries, a calculation on the Hillhead figures would produce a Parliament in which Labour was the largest party ... with the Alliance holding the balance'**

all of which were cast in error, to the real Roy Jenkins. That puts his vote up to 34 per cent. Secondly, if comparisons are to be made with English by-elections, a way must be found of dealing with the SNP's vote.

The simple method is to eliminate it then re-percentage the votes of the remaining candidates. This would produce the "result": Alliance 38 per cent, Conservative 30 per cent, Labour 30 per cent, other 2 per cent.

A System Three survey in early March, which asked voters to state their second preferences, cast doubt on this, indicating that without a candidate, one in four new voters would have abstained and the rest would have voted Alliance, Labour and Conservative in the ratio of 7 to 4 to 1. If these figures are applied, the Hillhead "result" would have been: Alliance 40 per cent, Labour 30 per cent, Conservative 28 per cent, others 2 per cent.

Thus the effect of the SNP vote was to deprive Labour of second place (but not victory, as some have suggested), and to make the similar levels of support obtained by the Alliance in Warrington, Croxdon and Hillhead.

To project an election result from these figures, however, the estimates must incorporate two additional factors.

On the one hand, the Liberals have always been relatively strong in Hillhead compared with elsewhere in Scotland; on the other, polls have shown throughout the last year that support for the Alliance, even after adjusting for the SNP, is 3 to 4 per cent lower in Scotland than in Britain as a whole.

The final, overall calculation on the Hillhead figures suggests that it is in fact the equivalent of a vote in Britain as a whole of 38 per

cent Alliance, 31 per cent Labour, 26 per cent Conservative, 5 per cent others. On new constituency boundaries this would produce a Parliament in which Labour was the largest party (284 seats — more than it has now), the Alliance held the balance (248 seats) and the Conservatives were reduced to a rump of 78 — a fine reminder of the anomalies produced by the first-past-the-post electoral system when three parties are in almost-equal contention.

The result was deceptive in two other ways. First, it was not quite the setback for the nationalists that it seems. True, the SNP lost its deposit, and could only improve on its 1979 performance by 1 per cent. True, the picture was very different under the 1970-74 Conservative government, when by-elections anticipated the nationalist breakthrough in the two 1974 elections.

In the November 1973 by-election at Edinburgh North, for example, which closely resembles Hillhead in its social and political make-up, the SNP picked up 19 per cent of the vote at its first attempt; and in Dundee East and Glasgow Govan, where it was competing against all three parties, its vote averaged 36 per cent. Clearly the standard-bearer against the two big parties is now the Alliance.

None the less, coupled with recent Scottish polls and local authority by-elections, the Hillhead result suggests that the nationalists' 17 per cent vote in 1979 was a bed-rock.

That level of support is sufficient to ensure the SNP some parliamentary representation. Indeed, the Conservative vote has only to slip by half the amount in Hillhead for the SNP to regain the seven rural Conservative seats that it narrowly won in 1974 and



Jenkins: doubts behind the victory salute

equally narrowly lost in 1979. Applied to the rest of Scotland, the Hillhead swings would win almost as many seats for the nationalists as they would for the Alliance. The SNP will not disappear; it broke the mould of Scottish politics a decade ago.

The other deceptive statistic was turnout. At 76 per cent, it was fractionally higher than in the general election, and much higher than in a normal British by-election. But the figure is less impressive than it seems. Scottish by-election turn-outs are generally higher than elsewhere in Britain; moreover, the Hillhead figure was lower than for previous by-elections in Glasgow, Pollok, Ayrshire, South and Rox-

burgh fought on a March register and when the contest was between only two or three parties. In Hillhead there were four established parties and eight candidates. The electorate was bombarded with leaflets, pursued by pollsters and submerged by media coverage. Yet on a sunny spring day about a fifth of the electorate was unwilling to vote. Perhaps there is a mould of indifference and cynicism still to be broken.

The author is co-director of the British Election Study and director of the SSRC Survey Archive, both at the University of Essex.

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## WHERE THE ALLIANCE VOTES HAVE COME FROM

	% change from general election	% swing from Con to SDP-Lib	% swing from Lab to SDP-Lib	proportion of 1979 vote lost at by-election	Con	Lab
Warrington (July 16, 1981)	-21.7	-13.2	+33.3	27.5	23.3	75.3
Croxdon NW (October 12, 1981)	-18.9	-14.1	+29.5	24.2	21.8	38.3
Crosby (November 26, 1981)	-17.2	-15.9	+33.8	25.6	24.9	30.2
Glasgow, Hillhead (March 25, 1982)	-14.5	-8.5	+19	16.8	13.5	35.3

\* After adjusting for change in turn-out

# And now could we have some policies?

by Geoffrey Smith

**'The Alliance will never make the breakthrough at a general election if it appears as no more than the vehicle for protest'**

There is no substitute for victory in politics. If Mr Jenkins had lost by even a handful of votes at Hillhead the disaster for the SDP Liberal Alliance could not have been explained away by any psephological artistry. He would not have been eligible to become the parliamentary leader of the SDP; there would have been no readily accepted leader of the Alliance; and a psychological blow would have been suffered just when the Alliance was losing momentum in the country as a whole. Defeat would have strengthened the impression that the whole Alliance phenomenon was no more than a spectacular version of a mid-term Liberal revival.

But now that Mr Jenkins has won by a comfortable margin it would be foolish to try to explain away his triumph. It is true that it owed much to his personality. It was noticeable going round the doorsteps with Mrs Jenkins how many people had met her husband. He was the celebrity of the campaign. He was also rather more suited to Hillhead than was appreciated by those who made the obvious criticism of a metropolitan Welshman standing for a Scottish constituency — a serious, even fastidious, candidate for unusually serious voters.

This was illustrated by the most bizarre episode of the campaign when the local housing association arranged for each of the candidates in turn to visit a 90-year-old man living in bad conditions on the second floor of a tenement. We all of us — journalists, television producers, camera crews and radio reporters — crowded into a small room alongside the camera to watch each candidate take the chair by the old man for the allotted time of televised compassion. Everyone was a bit embarrassed: politicians, broadcasters and journalists alike. Was this not really rather inhuman exploitation? The occasion was redeemed only by the fact that one person was thoroughly enjoying it: the old man was having the time of his life.

"Is that the end of them?" he asked with evident disappointment as the last candidate departed. But it was Mr Jenkins' credit that he was more embarrassed than any of the other candidates. His distaste for showbiz politics suited the mood of this electorate.

The Alliance will not often be able to field a candidate of the calibre of Roy Jenkins.

But neither will it anywhere in England have to face the competition of a Nationalist party for the protest vote. Much of the increased strength of the SDP in the closing days of the campaign can be attributed to its success in securing the Nationalist support. If the Nationalist had done as well in the election itself as he was doing in the opinion polls a week ago it is hard to believe that Mr Jenkins could have done more than squeak home. But this is a complicating factor that the Alliance will not face outside Scotland and Wales.

So this is a victory with both practical and psychological consequences. The psychological aspect is of tremendous importance for a new political formation in two respects. How well it does will depend a great deal upon how well people think it will do. They will not wish to waste votes at a general election on parties that seem to stand little chance of forming, or at least taking part in, a government. But the more the Alliance appears to be a serious contender for office the more rigorously will its policies be scrutinized.

The Alliance has come a long way so far on a minimum of policies. This reticence on policy has come about partly because the first type of supporter has not had time to define their positions in more than broad outline. But much of it is deliberate. They know that too much policy is a positive disadvantage for attracting the protest vote: if you are not careful the voters will start to protest against your policy as well as against the other parties' performance. The Alliance leaders have also seen too many governments strangled in office by the commitments they acquired in opposition. They do not believe in programmatic politics.

But it is always possible, in politics as in other activities, to take self-denial a bit too far. Mr Jo Grimond is fond of saying that it is not necessary for a political party to have a policy for

everything from dog licences to world government. Put like that, who could disagree with him? But between these two fascinating areas of speculation there are one or two practical questions to which voters are liable to want answers from parties that aspire to form a government.

This will present the Alliance leaders with a delicate test of judgment. They will not want to tie their hands or to present their opponents with too inviting a target. They will still hope to win the protest vote. But the Alliance will never make the breakthrough that it seeks at a general election if it appears as no more than the most comfortable vehicle for protest. It must therefore give a sufficient indication of what it would do in order to be credible as a prospective government.

In particular it will have to show that its ideas have been thought through, that the critical areas of policy — income, health, education, housing, law and order — are given a sufficient indication of what it would do in order to be credible as a prospective government.

The Alliance will find it all the more difficult to strike the right balance on policy commitments because there is a fundamental contradiction in the nature of its support which becomes more evident the more one sees the reactions of individual voters in very different circumstances. There are many who are attracted to the Alliance as the sensible grouping between, neither Thatcherite Conservative nor Bennite Labour. The Alliance appeals to these voters because of what it would not do. It offers them the prospect of practical, realistic government, avoiding the extremist errors of other parties.

But there are others who look to the Alliance for more radical solutions. "We'll give them a chance," these voters say, on the doorstep which means that they are looking for a miracle cure. Whereas the first type of supporter is seeking stability, the second is demanding change. Will it be possible for the Alliance to produce policies to satisfy the one without alarming the other?

At some stage, unless it is very lucky, the Alliance is likely to experience some difficulty in balancing these conflicting expectations. But for the time being it may reasonably hope to ride on the momentum of Hillhead. It has shown that it can not only sweep to victory, but also surge of fashionable sentiment, but also that it can recover from the prospect of defeat.

Philip Howard, ex-butler, studies a fellow professional

## Dash it, sir, a man must not serve and tell

Stanley Ager has broken the first unwritten rule of the butler's profession by betraying the confidences of those whom he has served. It was the first thing that they taught those of us who took temporary employment as butlers when *The Times* was closed for most of 1978.

A butler has a confidential relationship with his employers, like that of a doctor or a priest. He must never repeat, far less publish, anything that he hears above stairs. I suppose that my finest hour as temporary butler was to have the honour of serving a champagne reception for 90 gynaecologists and the Queen. I saw things behind the scenes on that occasion that the resting back in me itched to publish. But *Noblesse Oblige*. The old lips are sealed.

As the sage Claudian happily put it 16 centuries ago: *Humanum curare genus quis terminus unquam praescripsit?* What boundary ever set limits to the service of a butler?

Of course, you gentlemen's gentlemen write character reports on our employers in the members' log-book of the Junior Gynae Club, and highly entertaining, not to say sensational, some of them are. But they are strictly confidential, locked in the big leather-bound book by the Secretary's key. Only members of the club contemplating taking a position are allowed to inspect what one might describe as the dirty linen of their potential employers.

And now this boulder Stanley Ager has broken the rules and spilled the beans. He has been in service since 1922 to some of the noblest families in the land, finishing his career as butler to the second and third Lord St Levan. And here he is publishing a little book that gives away the secrets of the ministerial profession on such trivia as the right way to brush a felt hat, and the correct way to pack clothing (he favours tissue paper; I have always found that old linen napkins give more satisfaction).

It may be undignified to publish such stuff, but that does not matter greatly. They seem to have been remarkably slapdash about their shoe and leather care at St

Michael's Mount; it would not have done for — O, sopsopiosis, Howard. And his advice on opening champagne bottles, though perfectly sound, is impractically elaborate when 900 thirsty gynaecologists and Her Majesty are waiting with their tongues hanging out. What you need then is strong fingers and a pair of stout pliers. One of the gynaecologists sent me a pair of pincers of his profession after I had torn my thumb nail forefinger to bleeding ribbons opening hundreds of bottles.

What matters greatly is that this Ager sees razor to divulge anecdotes and titillate about the eminent people (some of the highest names in the land) whom he has served; stories of a sort that I would not allow the junior servants to tell among themselves even in the privacy of any butler's pantry of which I was in charge.

Stories of the Princess Royal walking like a train to give her escorting policeman the slip, or Mrs Vanderbilt demanding receipts for her tips (not exactly generous, one might say, since we are being indiscreet to the Queen's informality on tea-time visits to her friends may have a vulgar fascination for the giddy-minded. But they can only weaken the reverence for the upper classes that is the cement of society, and undermine confidence in the courtier professions.

Ager disgracefully owns up to how he would get his own back on a guest of whom he disapproved. He would weaken a couple of stitches in the instep of his shoe by half-cutting them with a razor blade, so that a couple of weeks later the sole of his shoe would hang off. He would turn his kid gloves

inside out after taking the coat of some gilded youth, before slipping them back in his pocket. "It's an awful job to right those kid gloves when they are inside out — and it's certainly not easy for a young man to do when going out with a young lady in a hurry."

On one occasion "a particularly tricky gentleman" left some lovely shaving cream behind. All the staff dipped into it; but the man returned unexpectedly. So Ager topped it up with soda, knowing that this would irritate his skin. "Sure enough, when he came down to breakfast the next morning, his chin was covered with pimples."

Revelations such as these destroy the mutual confidence on which the butler-master relationship depends. Of course Ager gets some things right. He has, after all, been in service for more than half this century. I thought that the chapter on how to iron a newspaper was particularly thoughtful, though I disagree with Ager's assertion that "only the better newspapers, such as *The Times* and *The Financial Times*, were read in the drawing room." We used to keep them in the butler's pantry.

In my experience, *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*, with, of course, *Country*, *Life* and *Horse and Hound*, are quite demanding enough reading for the drawing room. Ager has been a country member of the Junior Gynae Club since before the war, paying occasional visits when the family came up to town from the West Country. A bespectacled, severe-looking man, he has the presence of a butler, but clearly he lacks the essential gravitas. His unfortunate book has caused great pain and scandal in the butlering profession.

My old friend, Reginald Jewess, and I have put down a motion of censure for the next committee meeting of the Gynae Club. I am afraid that extreme measures are called for. There is no alternative to expulsion with dishonour, the crested buttons being ceremonially snipped off in a hollow square of footmen and hall boys.

The Butler's Guide to Clothes Care, Managing the Household, Running the Home and Other Graces, by Stanley Ager and Roy Jenkins (Papermac, £3.95).

## Dangers for a long-distance youngster

Cries of "unfair" went up this week when an 11-year-old girl, Cheryl Page, was refused permission to run in future marathons after finishing one at Winchester in four hours 48 minutes. The Amateur Athletic Association has announced that children's marathons are to be held in the United States and on the Continent where "age group" long distance races are popular, it will not allow children to run in officially sanctioned marathons.

An explosion of interest in the 26 miles 385 yards race has brought many problems. The accusation of anachronisms in the AAA rules on age limits are but the latest. "Fun runs" and unannounced marathons abound and the AAA knows that if parents think it reasonable for children to race over long distances, unofficial events will be found.

There is nothing new about young sportsmen and women succeeding at high level. A 16-year-old won the English long jump title in 1873, but the advent of the jogging boom in America led to events for young competitors with nine-year-olds being credited with "world marathon records" and even a four-year-old being timed over a full marathon course.

Mel Barry, a national event coach for marathon running and a prodigious long distance runner, was horrified at the prospect of parents joining the marathon bandwagon in Britain by encouraging children to compete.

He said: "There is no way we should encourage it. If children are pressured to embark on long distances it will damage their long term prospects. There is evidence from the United States by the time they reach peak strength their concentration has gone."

"I am not saying that children will suffer severe physical damage by the training involved but there is a danger that if parents and coaches pressurize them into competition, their natural instinct to stop running when

they are tired out could be overcome by the fear of adult reactions. At present the longest competitive race for 11-year-olds is 1,500 metres and I want it to stay that way. I will never recommend to the AAA or British board that we hold children's marathons or even mini-marathons."

Children under ten are known to run up to 100 miles a week in the United States. They risk all the usual injuries brought on by excessive physical stress. Young baseball pitchers who practise for hours do lasting damage to arm and shoulder muscles and doctors are now treating young runners for Achilles tendon trouble, back problems and even stress fractures.

Constant jarring, caused by running on roads without the proper footwear, can also cause kidney damage and pelvic and spinal injuries. The International Olympic Committee has recently studied the ethical problem of children in sport, partly as a result of Eastern block countries producing adolescent gymnastics champions, but mainly because of rumours concerning injuries in training and the use of drugs.

The IOC leave individual sports to decide on minimum ages for competition, which in the case of gymnastics is now 15. There is no minimum age restriction for children doing basic gymnastics at local level in Britain.

While the gravest rumours concern crippling injuries suffered by children in the Soviet Union and East Germany, last year a north London club was summoned to the British Amateur Gymnastics Association to explain why several members had been hurt.

Duncan Goodhew, the Olympic swimming champion, puts forward the theory that there are two ways to sporting success: "brainwashing or forming a philosophy." He said: "When you are young you take things at surface value. If a



Eleven-year-old Cheryl with her father, Major Brian Page: is she too young for the marathon?

coach says this is the right way for you to get a world record a lot of times you believe it.

"But at 15 and 16 you start reasoning. If the coach says the same thing you say: 'who, me, a world record holder?' and you think about all the others trying to do the same thing."

Goodhew was disturbed by the idea of youngsters running for miles on roads and though not an apologist for doping parents who pushed children into hours of training after they had ceased to enjoy the sport, he felt swimming was always less hazardous than exercise involving abnormal twisting and turning.

He pointed out that swimming champions now tended to be older and were retiring later.

While running a marathon and the necessary training may merely shorten the competitive life of a very young athlete and almost certainly cost him success later, drugs remain the most serious threat. Although the only evidence so far put forward in Britain, involving a 13-year-old weightlifter, was not substantiated, Professor Arnold Beckett, head of the Chelsea College Drug Control Centre, is convinced that drugs are being given to young people in sport.

When an East German athlete, Renate Neufeld, defected to the West she claimed at 17 she was told to take tablets which proved to be anabolic steroids.

Norman Fox

## The risks they run

**JOINTS**  
● Excessive running, particularly on hard surfaces, may give rise to osteoarthritis in the knees and hips in middle age.  
● Cartilages in the knee are easily damaged by excessive twisting.  
● Young joints may be permanently damaged if their suppleness is exploited by gymnastics.

**BONES**  
● The neck, as well as being damaged in contact sports such as rugby and wrestling, can also be injured in tennis or golf by a poorly coordinated serve or swing.  
● Excessive running on hard surfaces jars the spine. Spinal injuries can occur and spine can be affected by constant stress.  
● Runners develop little stress fractures in the bones of the foot, which are badly fitted shoes are liable to hammer toes and bunions.  
● Stress fractures may occur in the small bones of the foot (metatarsal fractures) and occasionally in the smaller, the two leg bones (fibula).  
● The ball of the foot may collapse (police man's foot).

**SOFT TISSUE**  
● Last arm and stomach muscles may be strained or torn.  
● Excessive exercise in a young person (particularly swimmers and weightlifters) can overdevelop certain groups of muscles which may look unattractive and be replaced by fat at a later age when less exercise is taken.  
● Over exercise can damage the Achilles tendon.  
● Tennis elbow and focal inflammation of the tendon sheaths may follow repetitive exercise.  
● Inflammation of the ligament tissue underneath the heel.

**OTHER**  
● Gynaecologically, hyperactivity and hyperkalemia are often related to the symptoms of anorexia nervosa and bulimia. In young girls, puberty is often delayed. Even if a very thin patient puts on the appropriate amount of weight, ovulation may not recur at a high level of exercise.  
● Sudden death can often expose unsuspected heart disease.  
● Latent epilepsy may be uncovered by excessive exercise.  
● A type of asthma may be induced by exercise.

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P.O. Box 7, 200-Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

## ONE CANDLE ON A BIG CAKE

So Mr Roy Jenkins is back in the Commons where he belongs. His victory at Hillhead yesterday presented the Social Democratic Party with an ebullient first birthday present. The return of Mr Jenkins to Westminster will invigorate Parliament, and create some welcome stimulus to the political debate. He is a Parliamentarian of wit, ability and much experience of the high offices of State. The Brussels interruption, though dignified, was not singularly impressive, but his presence on the SDP benches will give that Party much needed bottom which has not hitherto been provided by the disgraced charm of Mrs Williams, or the sometimes discomforting self-importance of Dr Owen.

The question remains, however: what does the by-election mean for the future? The ground has been well worked with computers, swingmeters and all the paraphernalia of punditry; in addition to the multitude of explanations and excuses put forward by one victor and all the vanquished. Beneath this, however, there lies a hard crust of fashion and novelty which must go some way towards explaining the phenomenal rise of the SDP in the mid-life of this Government. It is a very fashionable party, and as is the way with fashion, it has attracted all kinds of unlikely supporters to it. There are the conservatives-with-a-conscience, the socialists-with-a-human face, the centrists, the corporatists and "Islington Man". This motley of enthusiasm has so far only produced one distinctive policy theme, not previously put forward by the major parties of either hue.

We are all in favour of less inflation, more employment, and more growth. We are in favour of liberty. We are

against sin. But the only matter on which the SDP has stood out distinctively from the two other Parties which have formed post-War Governments — excluding its commitment to preserve the present frontier of the mixed economy — is that it is in favour of proportional representation. It is an easy tactic when you are losing a game — or at least when you think it might be a difficult game to win — to suggest that the rules should be changed. It is a popular tactic also, because the argument when based only on the narrow point of electoral arithmetic appears to show what an unfair electoral system we have. There may be merit in moving to a more sensitive system of electoral law based partly on proportionality, but that merit does not lie in the proposition that without it our parliamentary system is unable to accommodate political change. It has shown quite adequately in the past that it can accommodate enormous change, though it takes time to do so. We should not begrudge it that time.

The first two members of Parliament were elected to represent Labour in 1874. It took 50 years to form a Labour Government, and then only a minority one. Britain underwent a period of coalition governments between 1916 and 1945. Perhaps the phenomenon of the SDP is not just a mid-term protest, facilitated by the ever more bitter arguments in the Labour Party. Perhaps we are witnessing here a similar process of change to that which occurred when the Labour Party replaced the Liberals as the Party of the Left.

However, the election of Mr Jenkins and the assumption that he will become the SDP's leader — at least until he

exposes his tenuous majority once more to the voters at the next General Election — puts in doubt the idea that the SDP will emerge from this process simply as a reconstituted party of the Left. There is obviously some possibility that it will only do that once it has finished off the Conservatives. It is true that the emotional centre of gravity in the SDP springs from its origins among disaffected members of the Labour Party. Moreover it would be hard to find any SDP taproot reaching down far enough into the bedrock of British Conservatism to think that the SDP could really contemplate a future as the natural Party of the Right. Unfortunately, owing to its fashionable reception, it has not yet had to address itself seriously to these issues. The logic of Centristism, and proportional representation, is either an interminable series of coalitions — and do we want that? — or else a one-party state — and do we want that? — even if the one party is a party of the Centre?

No member of the SDP has yet proposed a circular chamber for the House of Commons, yet the language of Centristism which they do not synchronize with the basically adversarial culture of British politics. A system of two parties exists here and has hitherto shown itself to be flexible enough to accommodate the change or replacement of any particular party.

The SDP has now grown up. It will have to tackle these questions without attempting to reap all the benefits of being fashionable while shouldering none of the responsibilities. Responsibility in politics is about choice. One has to choose, and be seen to choose. That goes as much for the electorate as for the leaders it puts in office.

## ALL IN THE BREEDING

Today *The Times* completes a five-part investigation into the state of the British horse racing industry. There are those who are bored by horse racing and aggrieved at the vast amounts of money spent on betting or on the purchase of some high class animals. Yet racing is part of Britain's national economy as well as the national life; this industry employs 100,000 people, owner and breeders inject some £70m annually and in 1980-1 punters "invested" £2,600m in bets.

However these huge sums belie the unhealthy state of the racing industry, which reflects the British economy as a whole. The key to the past and to the future is the thoroughbred racehorse. British breeders create the thoroughbred and they still supply over 60 per cent of all the horses in training in this country. But Britain's share of the international market has declined to less than five per cent of the annual world production of 100,000. This is particularly true at the lucrative, top end of the market, where breeders in Ireland and the United States have powerful tax advantages.

In Ireland bloodstock is zero-rated for VAT and there is a minimal rating in France (on the carcass value). Here (VAT is 15 per cent and the VAT could be helped by government). But politicians look at the industry with a narrow attitude to sport, because they find it an easy source of political and fiscal capital. In a review in December 1981, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) urged that VAT be zero-rated in this country, at least until there was harmonization in the European community; they also sought tax relief on stocks and losses. The TBA reported that the racing industry could help itself by providing special prizes and restricted races for British horses. In 1980 French breeders received £3.25m in financial support plus £5.25m in premiums, whereas their British counterparts had a paltry £340,000 in premiums for filles only.

So Britain has to import the best thoroughbred and often loses her own to produce to foreign buyers. Last year's Derby winner, Shergar, was

bred in Ireland and syndicated for stud for £10m. To the outsider this may seem an extraordinary price to pay for a horse, but this is big business and potentially a sound investment, which is largely passing Britain by. Furthermore, British breeders in the medium and small range are losing money on their produce.

Horse racing has been dubbed "the sport of kings" and it still enjoys the keen support of the Royal Family. Although it continues to be dominated by a wealthy elite — these days as much from Arab countries as from the United States — racing has a wide popular appeal which is unsurpassed.

British racing is reckoned to be the fairest and most varied in the world. It also has a growth potential which could safeguard jobs and benefit the whole economy. It is high time these factors were recognised and British bloodstock was restored to a prominent position in the international sphere by a combination of help from the government and from within the industry itself.

## MUSICAL BUMP

controversial position. Its role as a regulator of the British music scene has been performed in relative obscurity for the last thirty years and on the basis of a carefully constructed mutual understanding with the Department of Employment. For the civil servants it has proved a useful specialist buffer in the somewhat arcane area of regulating imports of serious music.

The challenge from Los Angeles has struck at the heart of VOCA. It has become quite clear that the association represents a loose consensus which has been subject neither to public scrutiny nor to the attention of consumers of serious music. It is a protectionist organization and, like all such organizations, is open to the charge that it is acting against the interests of the consumer. This charge must be moderated by awareness that the classical music industry is an agglomeration of organizations all dependent directly or

indirectly on subsidies. The simple view that it ought to be subject to the same free market disciplines as everybody else should be treated with some caution.

Yet, even after taking into account the extent to which classical music has to be nurtured for the general good of the community, it is difficult to be convinced by the defensive and somewhat parochial appeals of VOCA members to "the rules" or to custom and practice. After all, discrepancies in subsidy arrangements between one country and another could surely be better settled by international agreements aimed at encouraging rather than restricting the flow of talent. Local and undisclosed agreements arrived at as a result of complex and largely unifying compromises with the restrictive instincts of trade unions and local authorities do not help. There is still time for VOCA to think again.

## Surgeon's hungry allies

From Dr H.A. Dewar  
Sir, Mr Denner's letter of March 23 about his leeches had particular interest for me because of his statement that his ward sister gave them jam as a "starter" for them.

When I was house physician in Hammersmith Hospital in 1937 the sister in the ward where I worked was even more considerate. She kept two leeches in a jar as pets, but there was no jam

in it, only water. I suggested to her that they must be hungry and that I could alleviate this symptom each Monday if I gave them a small helping, from one of the blood specimens I used to take that day from each new patient in the ward and which we sent to the lab. for a Wassermann test in case one of the patients (unknown to us) had syphilis (they almost never did). She was most grateful for the suggestion, but when the first Monday came round she told me,

somewhat diffidently, that she had changed her mind and would rather that I did not give them that particular meal. How could I be sure, she asked, that the blood sample might not be Wassermann-positive?

Yours faithfully,  
H.A. DEWAR,  
Flat 2,  
Wylam Hall,  
Wylam,  
Northumberland.  
March 25.

## Political control and the police

From Mr James Mottram

Sir, I am surprised that during a week of controversy on law and order and the role of police committees no one appears to have referred to the policy adopted by some police committees of ensuring overall majority control by a single political party.

I am a magistrate member of the Merseyside Police Committee. The committee is made up of 20 councillors and 10 magistrates. When the Labour Party won the council in 1980 they reorganised the police committee in such a way as to give them a majority over all other members. Thus we have a committee comprising 16 Labour councillors, three Conservative councillors, one Liberal councillor and 10 magistrates.

Not content with that, more active involvement of magistrates in a system of no representation, or at best minimal representation, on subcommittees. Last year, in an attempt to achieve greater participation commensurate with their numerical strength, the magistrate members sought to create a second deputy chairmanship for exclusive occupation by a magistrate. The motion was defeated.

It seems to me that the intention of the 1964 Police Act is being eroded by these tactics. Magistrates were appointed to police committees because of their knowledge of law and order matters. Political manoeuvres, such as those I have described, reduce the efficacy of police committees.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MOTTRAM,  
26 Parkbury Court,  
Oxted, Birkbeck,  
Warral, Merseyside.  
March 22.

## The causes of crime

From Mr B. Blom-Cooper QC

Sir, Both the Lord Chief Justice and Lord Scarman in the course of yesterday's law and order debate in the House of Lords (report, March 25) excoriated the veneer of the published criminal statistics and dismissed the recorded figures of crime as both misleading and largely unintelligible. They then both proceeded to propound their theories as to the causes of a "rising crime rate". Whence, may one ask, do they derive the data to support their assertions as to the volume of crime in Britain today?

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,  
Goldsmith Building,  
Temple EC4.  
March 25.

## Aid for schools

From Professor S. J. Fraiss

Sir, You refer in your leading article of March 20 to the "turn of the tide" in favour of schooling based on religious and moral values, and of the movement amongst religious minorities in this country to avail themselves of the financial provisions for "church schools" under Butler's 1944 Education Act.

Your news item of the previous day, on the official rejection of an application for state aid by the Anglican schools in Hackney, illustrates how difficult it still is for minorities to obtain recognition of their rights under that Act. The main reason for the rejection given by Dr Rhodes Boyson, the Minister with special responsibility for schools, at a meeting at which I was present was the lack of compliance with new school-building regulations issued after those applications had been submitted. There was no way in which the school authorities could have anticipated these detailed requirements.

The brief reference in the news item to a confidential ILEA report on the schools was unnecessarily unfavourable light on the schools. In fact that report also referred very favourably to the "obvious enthusiasm and motivation of the children", and that they subsequently "do well in public examinations". There was no mention of the religious or denominational or general college; and there is no real difficulty in relation to the curriculum.

Had your correspondent visited the schools, he would have understood why so many parents feel aggrieved at the rejection of their application for state aid on what (as it appears to them) are bureaucratic and technical grounds, which should readily have been surmounted with goodwill from the official side.

Yours sincerely,  
S. J. FRAISS,  
83 West Heath Road, NW3.  
March 22.

## Falklands incident

From Captain John Litchfield, RN

Sir, It would take more than one ship — and a surveying vessel at that — to provide a permanent naval presence 8,000 miles from home base (letter, March 25) and a knot might have to be cut to provide a maritime force sufficient to deal with little local difficulties, wherever they arise, and to deter more provocative actions.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LITCHFIELD,  
Snowfield,  
Barnes,  
Maidstone.  
March 25.

A comparison in a leading article on MPs' salaries on March 25 between the salaries paid at Westminster and Strasbourg should have made it clear that the pay of British European MPs is tied by statute to that of their Westminster colleagues.

## Wider study of human reproduction

From the Director of the Council for Science and Society

Sir, The setting up by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of a special committee of doctors to consider guidelines for the practice of in vitro fertilization is greatly to be welcomed. So also is the inquiry established by the British Medical Association.

However, as you rightly observe, your leader (February 10), "this is not a matter to be left wholly to doctors". The manner of the begetting of children is of wide social concern and will become more so with the development of further techniques which are in the offing. These might include provision for obtaining a baby of desired sex and the carrying out of genetic screening on, or perhaps fertilized embryo before it is implanted in its mother.

In their letter (February 4) Dr R. Snowden and Professor G. D. Mitchell point out that "At the present time there is no control whatsoever in this country in the establishment of sperm banks and the commercialization of artificial insemination by donor, surrogate motherhood and in vitro fertilization services". The significance of this remark is brought home by your news item (February 17) to the effect that an American company is offering frozen human sperm to European doctors by mail order.

I can report that this council has now completed the setting up of a working party for the purpose of studying the social, ethical and legal aspects of existing and emerging techniques in the field of human reproduction. The working party has a multi-disciplinary membership and wide-ranging terms of reference, including the implications for the child and family, the problems involved if certain techniques are commercialized, the promising possibilities for the

prevention of genetic disorders, and the appropriate institutional mechanisms which may seem desirable for the purpose of regulation. It will be chaired by Professor G. R. Dunstan, Professor of Moral and Social Theology at King's College, London.

In the absence of a similarly wide-ranging governmental inquiry or departmental committee we hope that our independent approach will complement those studies, mentioned above, which are being undertaken within the medical profession.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH DENBIGH, Director,  
Council for Science and Society,  
34 St Andrews Hill, EC4.  
March 24.

From the Bishop of London

Sir, Your reporter says (Saturday, March 20) that the Church of England and Britain's non-conformist churches have given their approval to fertilization outside the womb, providing the couple concerned, but want to speak on behalf of the churches in opposition to artificial insemination by donor (AID). It needs to be pointed out that the group who compiled the report, while consisting of distinguished and experienced people, could not, and in fact did not, claim to speak on behalf of the churches as a whole. Such authority as their report possesses is the intrinsic authority of a job well done.

Some such further authorization may, in due course, be given to the report, whether by the Free Church Federal Council, the member churches of that council, or other churches including the Church of England. That point has not yet been reached. Yours faithfully,  
J. GRAHAM LONDON,  
London House,  
8 Barton Street, SW1.  
March 24.

## The Pope's visit

From Mr A. F. Harlow

Sir, In your leading article, "Care for the courtesies" (March 13), you refer to "a few fundamentalist, Calvinistic, isolated and impopular congregations" for whom "no Popery" is still a watchword. I wonder if the opposition to the Pope's visit is limited as your article suggests?

Writing as a lay member of an Anglican congregation, I believe there may be many thousands of Anglicans who view the Pope's coming with strong reservations, if not with downright protest. It must be to the Pope's credit that the rightness of this invitation was never debated, either in the General Synod, or at diocesan level, let alone at the grass-roots of the parish church councils.

I believe a referendum now on the subject amongst all committed members of the Church of England would bring a surprising degree of opposition to the surface and show, not for the first time, that their Graces the archbishops and bishops may be out of touch with the rank and file.

The reasons for such opposition are various: in some cases suspicion of the motives of the Roman Catholic Church; in others a feeling of a threat to the status quo; but there is also the religious imagination. Those of us who for many years have worked and prayed for the cause of Christian unity in this city see it quite otherwise.

As the Toxteth riots demonstrated last summer, we are a sadly divided community. There are serious divisions between blacks and whites, between employed and unemployed, between well-housed and badly housed, between the followers of different religions, and between political groups whose partisanship is not always for the wellbeing of our community.

In the past the different Christian communities were tarred with the same brush, and from time to time (as on the occasion of the recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury) these old animosities come to the surface. But in recent years the churches have been increasingly called to heart the New Testament injunction that the followers of Christ are "entrusted with the message of reconciliation". Such a message, far from being a waste of time and energy, as Mr Gardiner appears to insist, is

the significance of the mother of Jesus, the completeness of Christ's work on the Cross and the final authority of Holy Scripture.

These differences are not to be dispelled by formal theological statements which so often have to depend on ambiguity to be acceptable. Yours faithfully,  
A. F. HARLOW,  
24 Orchard Drive, Watford.

From Mr James Coombe

Sir, The aptly named Miss Smoker (March 23) is clouding the pages of your newspaper with her concern over the Pope's visit. At least one of your readers, and a Protestant at that, not only welcomes the forthcoming arrival of this good and saintly man, but wholeheartedly supports the views he is alleged to espouse.

The apostolic exhortation on the family merely reiterates the old-fashioned virtues which have withstood the passage of time and will continue to do so long after Miss Smoker has stopped puffing and puffing her atheistic views about the place.

In the meantime let us consign Miss Smoker's polythene capes and their offensive slogans to their proper place, the incinerator, and welcome the Pope with due courtesy and respect.

Yours truly,  
JAMES COOMBE,  
50 Bramley Avenue,  
Coulson,  
Surrey.

## Growing church unity

From the Very Reverend Dr Edward H. Patey

Sir, From a safe distance of 200 miles, the Rev Tom Gardiner (March 17) assures your readers that the ecumenical endeavour on Merseyside is "wasteful of time and energy, so sapping the religious imagination." Those of us who for many years have worked and prayed for the cause of Christian unity in this city see it quite otherwise.

As the Toxteth riots demonstrated last summer, we are a sadly divided community. There are serious divisions between blacks and whites, between employed and unemployed, between well-housed and badly housed, between the followers of different religions, and between political groups whose partisanship is not always for the wellbeing of our community.

In the past the different Christian communities were tarred with the same brush, and from time to time (as on the occasion of the recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury) these old animosities come to the surface. But in recent years the churches have been increasingly called to heart the New Testament injunction that the followers of Christ are "entrusted with the message of reconciliation". Such a message, far from being a waste of time and energy, as Mr Gardiner appears to insist, is

essential to our understanding of the Gospel.

But a divided Church can win no credibility in preaching reconciliation to a divided community. Our urgent search for unity amongst the churches of Merseyside is not just a game of ecclesiastical jigsaw puzzles. It is part of our deeply serious concern to bring the message of reconciliation to a community in desperate need of that good news.

It is certainly a libel on our church leaders here to write of their growing unity, as Mr Gardiner does, as "shop window dressing". Certainly press photographs of Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock holding hands and smiling at one another may give that impression. But behind such pictures is a remarkable and regular commitment on behalf of the church — leaders here (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist and Salvation Army) to study, pray and work together in the name of Christ for the benefit of the secular community they all serve.

This is not window-dressing, it is basic Christianity. After over 40 years in the Anglican ministry, I see in this new spirit in the churches of Merseyside a marvellous sign of hope.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD H. PATEY,  
The Cathedral, Liverpool.

## Cricket and S Africa

From Mr Steven J. Baker and Mr J. W. Wheeler

Sir, Hitherto, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has failed to explain satisfactorily the paramount importance of the cricket bat as a stick to beat apartheid. Considering the present malaise of the England Test side, any England cricketer is far too important to cricket itself to be used as a pawn in international politics.

The entire free world supports India's fight against racial inequality (despite noted inconsistencies within that country), but it is not yet so economically weak and ideologically bankrupt to need cricket as a sanction against South Africa. There must surely be other, more effective means of

promoting social change in unequal societies.

We therefore suggest that the Indian Government renounces its undemocratic manipulation of cricket as a queen on the chessboard of international relations. We also submit that the role of the TCCB is to represent the interests of English cricket, not to act as the rubber stamp or tool of a foreign policy based on cricket tours.

Graham Gooch is being paid to play cricket, not to support apartheid. We should not endorse either South African or Indian attempts to make political capital out of popular sport. Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN J. BAKER,  
J. W. WHEELER,  
Faculty of Laws,  
King's College,  
Strand, WC2.  
March 21.

## Foundation in hatred

From Professor George Steiner

Sir, I value Mr Arnold Wesker's contribution (feature, March 20) to the debate now raging over the production of *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.* at the Mermaid Theatre, and Alec McCowen's overwhelming performance in the part of the fictional "Hitler".

Mr Wesker is entirely right when he says that both my novel and its scenic adaptation spring from the belief that the climate of political cant, oppression, torture, lunatic armaments, social deprivation and ecological destruction in which we conduct our current lives is, in some sense, a posthumous triumph of such systematic inhumanities as those of Stalinism and of Nazism. It is my conviction that we are accomplices in that which leaves us indifferent. Hence the challenge of "A.H." to reader and audience. Hence his question: "could the monstrousness in our time have been devised, could it have been without you and you, and you?"

Despite Mr Wesker's resort to sociological banalities, no adequate secular explanation has been offered to account for the national self-destruction which Hitler's hatred of the Jew. Nor can we explain in socio-historical terms the persistence of antisemitism in countries which have seen their Jews driven out or murdered (eg Poland). The final roots of such phenomena are of a metaphysical order.

Taking Hitler's statement, "the Jews have invented conscience", as a starting point, I have put forward, in my essays and fiction, the hypothesis that antisemitism is, ultimately, an attempt to eradicate the demands of the ideal, the exactions of perfection, the "blackmail of the absolute", as these are manifest in Mosaic Law, in the teachings of Christ, and in the post-messianic aspirations of Marx. In short: it is within the long crisis of monotheism that we may come to recognize the ultimate source of the hatred of Jew and Judaism.

There is in this hypothesis no "mass delusion", no "self-flagellation". On the contrary, I regard it as an immense privilege to belong to an ethnic tradition and to a moral imagination which (whatever one's failings) have striven to enact and to communicate to others, the claims of transcendent justice. There is no prouder status than that of the lightning rod which injustice, oppression and political bestiality are drawn to in times of storm. The accusations hurled by "A.H." in the novel and the play are in essence with jealousy, with paralytic envy. They honour, they seek to consume those upon whom they fall, precisely as lightning honours the lightning rod.

Thus it is Mr Wesker's "my Shylock" — I thought him Shakespeare's — who speaks of the "election" through Abraham and Moses as a "curse". To be obsessed with justice — eschatological, messianic, social — to feel unhouse in the city of man because so much in that city of inhuman man will be a tragic condition. And one that provokes ever-renewed menace. But it is at the very same time, as the masters of suffering have taught, a benediction and an ornament.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE STEINER,  
Churchill College,  
Cambridge,  
March 21

## Arts initiative

From Sir Hugh Casson and others

Sir, We are delighted to learn that the Minister for Arts, the Right Hon Paul Channon, MP, has given his backing to the movement for a national Arts Day — the first to be celebrated on June 24.

Great Britain's arts, past and present, are a national glory worthy of receiving wider recognition and a greater measure of national pride. Arts Day can become a source of renewed national consciousness and community spirit.

We applaud this initiative which will set aside a special day each year for showing how the arts can enrich our lives — every day. Yours faithfully,  
HUGH CASSON,  
JOHN BETJEMAN,  
MARTYN GOFF,  
GEORGE HOWARD,  
JENNIE LEE,  
HENRY MOORE,  
JOHN TOOLEY

Arts Day, A Nationwide Celebration of the Arts, 3 Earl Road, SW14.  
March 18.

## Candida


From Mr N. R. Beaumont

Sir, Rummaging through my grandmother's papers, I came across the following: "A Victorian Young Lady's Opinion of the Male Sex".  
Rabbits: Harmless, good natured, useful for running errands.  
Rats: To be avoided in every way, confidence tricksters.  
Nincompoops: Harmless, dull, brainless, well-meaning, foolish.  
Juggles: Flabby, dull, harmless.  
Man: Intelligent but would never set the Thames on fire; reliable, promising, good-natured.  
Man: Very scarce, utterly reliable, intelligent, courageous, with sense of humour.  
Happily grandmother married a Man.  
Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL R. BEAUMONT,  
3 Lovelace Road,  
West Dulwich, SE21.  
March 25.



# Shoparound with Beryl Downing

**Shelfstore The Shop for Shelving**



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Solid pine shelving & storage systems for every room in the house. See them at our showrooms:

Tel: 01-794 0313.  
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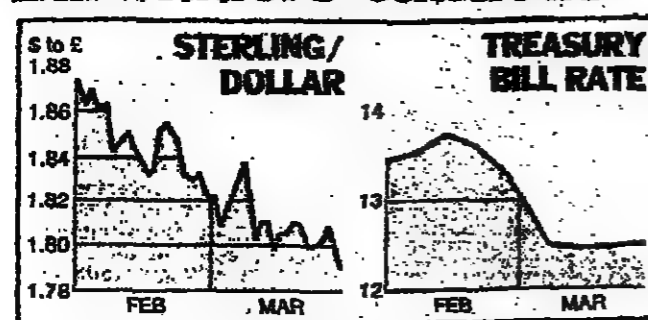
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Bill bidders cautious



Bidders for Treasury bills continued to take a cautious line on interest rates at yesterday's weekly Treasury bill tender. The average rate of discount at which three-month bills were allotted rose marginally from 12.48 to 12.51 per cent. In the money markets period rates were also slightly firmer, partly in response to the downward pressure on sterling against the dollar.

## Belfast firm wins China order

The Belfast petro-chemical engineers, Irish Bridge, has won a contract for a Chinese government offshore oil drilling programme in the Yellow Sea. The initial £20m contract will be multiplied if it runs for five years. The deal was announced in Belfast yesterday by Irish Bridge chairman, Mr Ronald Knowles, who said that it would employ up to 150 people, the first of whom will be sent to China within six months.

## Lagos may ease import curb

The Nigerian Central Bank's ban on the processing of applications for foreign exchange and new letters of credit is expected to continue for about four weeks, banking sources said in Lagos. The ban might be lifted within two weeks for essential imports, they added. Meanwhile, existing approvals for foreign exchange and letters of credit are expected to be honoured.

## Maxwell buying Arnold

Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press is buying E J Arnold & Son, Leeds-based family printing group whose chairman is Professor Roland Smith, for an undisclosed sum. Shareholders representing 51 per cent of the ordinary shares and 92 per cent of the preference shares have irrevocably accepted the offer. The deal follows last month's success of Professor Smith by members of the Arnold family. He earns £11,000 a year as chairman of the educational publishers, and is also the £50,000-a-year part-time chairman of the Harrods group.

## Luxembourg and Belgium heal rift

Belgium and Luxembourg have agreed to reinforce their monetary association, defusing for the time being their dispute over Belgium's recent currency devaluation. But in talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries last night, Luxembourg failed to win reforms in terms of the 60-year-old monetary partnership.

## Stylus departure

Mr David Garner, senior partner with the former stockbroker Halliday, Simpson, has resigned as chairman and director of Diamond Stylus. Mr Garner, who was secretary of the London-based stylus maker, refused to comment last night on the sudden departure.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Leaders shed up to 6p

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.7 down 2.2  
FT 100s 68.69 down 0.22  
FT all share 323.0 down 1.02  
Bargains 22,902

The last account of the financial year ended on a dull note with a lack of investment buying pushing the FT index down 4.7 in the afternoon but in after hours there was a slight rally and it closed down 2.2 at 557.7, a fall on the account of 8.2.

Interest centred on special situations with Federated Land improving on the increased offer from MIP Kent but ending unchanged at 145p. MIP Kent was 1p easier at 69p.

Most leading shares showed falls ranging from 5p to 6p, with a slight rally and it closed down 2.2 at 557.7, a fall on the account of 8.2.

Unigate shed 6p to 81p after bearish comments from brokers on the meat products division. After a healthy 38 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £20.1m in the half, way stage, estimates for the full year have been trimmed to around £40m.

Metal Box was up of 12p at 162p, after announcing factory closures and 120 redundancies.

Hentys dipped 1p to 107p as Mr Gordon Chandler, chairman, warned that a recovery in demand would not offset losses in January and February caused by the

## COMMODITIES

The International Tin Agreement, which takes effect provisionally in July, has been accepted by the European Economic Community according to the Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy.

In London, the tin market continued to drift lower during the afternoon with general liquidation evident on an otherwise featureless market, dealers said. Three month standard grade traded down to £7,225 during the late hour to show a loss of £85 from the previous day's high. Traders said some buffer stock manager bids appeared to be circulating below current levels although no fresh business was reported. The contango continued to hover around £215.

Cocoa futures in London staged a shotcovering rally at the final call after having fallen in late session to new nine-month lows in the key trading near May contract by breaking through the £1,000 per tonne barrier to £998. May finally traded at £1,011, dealers noted. Losses ranged from £32 in spot March to £9 in July 1982.

Robusta coffee futures in London traded quietly throughout the day with operators hesitant about taking new positions ahead of the weekend, traders said. Trade buying and light short-covering combined with the weakness of sterling and technical lightness on near March to weekly levels in the morning, and gains of up to £28 were mostly maintained until late in the session.

Domestic rates: Base rates 13% 3-month interbank 13 1/4% 13 1/2% Euro-currency rates 3-month dollar 15 1/4-15 1/2% 3-month DM 9 1/4-9 1/2% 3-month FR 27-25

Period rates were slightly firmer. The Bank of England bought £504m of bills at unchanged rates in response to a forecast shortage of £450m.

Money Markets: Period rates were slightly firmer. The Bank of England bought £504m of bills at unchanged rates in response to a forecast shortage of £450m.

## Dollar gains on money supply fears

The dollar made fresh gains on international currency markets yesterday as fears grew that rapid monetary growth in the United States could drive up interest rates over the coming weeks.

The pound, which has held up well against the strengthening dollar in recent days, suffered a sharp reversal in early trading. It fell to a low of \$1.7620 at one stage before recovering to close in London at \$1.7905, down 85 points on the day and the lowest level since late September.

The markets were quiet but nervous ahead of the release last night of the latest American weekly money supply figures. To get back on target these should show a fall but many analysts were predicting a rise of up to \$3,000m. These immediate worries have been overlaid by fears that the money supply will increase rapidly in April as it has done in previous years because of tax rebates and social security payments.

The prospect that the Federal Reserve Board may be obliged to tighten credit policy to contain monetary growth, thereby driving up interest rates, has led to rising Eurodollar deposits and a strengthening dollar.

Dealers interpreted sterling's fall as an adjustment to a more sensible parity against Continental currencies, notably the Deutschmark, which have been

dragged down by the weakness of the French franc.

The pound ended London trading at DM4.2850 compared with DM4.31 on Thursday. Its trade-weighted index against a basket of leading currencies dropped 0.5 to 103.9.

Dealers did not detect any Bank of England intervention to steady the pound yesterday morning, pointing out that it remains relatively strong against Continental currencies compared with six months ago when it last fell below \$1.80. It was then trading at around DM4.15 while its effective exchange rate index was below 87.

The Government is widely believed to be pursuing an informal exchange rate target of about 90 to 92 for the index, rather than a dollar target, so the fall against the dollar may not concern it unduly.

Trading within the European Monetary System was calmer yesterday as fears of an immediate realignment faded. The French Prime Minister, M Pierre Mauroy, said the other EMS member governments had told France they believe that a new parity adjustment would be "absurd". But the market still considers a realignment inevitable in the not too distant future.

The French franc was trading well above its EMS floor against the strongest currency, the Deutschmark, while the Belgian franc — also a candidate for devaluation — took its place as the weakest member.

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Packaging group to close three plants  
Metal Box cuts 1,200 jobs

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Metal Box, Europe's largest packaging group, yesterday announced that it would cut a further 1,200 jobs and close three of its plants in the latest phase of a rationalisation programme.

The company is closing a food can factory at Leicester, a plant producing beverage cans at Westborough, Greater Manchester, and a central heating radiator plant at Monmouth. All the closures are expected to be completed by early summer.

Over the past 20 months the company has been forced to carry out extensive surgery involving plant closures and about 7,000 redundancies.

In a statement the company said that the cost of the latest closures and the continuing rationalisation which had been implemented over the past year would be charged as extraordinary items in the financial year to the end of this month, and the overall loss was expected to be about £21m.

Mr Denis Allport, the chairman, whose remuneration rose by almost 50 per cent in 1981 from £34,000 to £57,000, at the half year in November announced an improved half time dividend of 7.2p gross and said this

reflected the company's view of prospects.

But yesterday the company said the improvement in trading which had been expected six months ago in the United Kingdom market had not materialised and pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of this month were not expected to differ materially from the £18.7m recorded in the first half.

The Leicester and Westborough plants form part of the company's open top division which manufactures food and beverage cans at 11 factories and employs 6,700 people.

Earlier this year, the company announced that almost 400 jobs would be lost with the cuts affecting plants in south and east London and at Aintree, near Liverpool.

In 1980-81, the company, which is among the world's largest canning groups, suffered its worst year with pre-tax profits falling to £29m from £62.8m the previous year.

Metal Box's difficulties were compounded by the effects of recession and the decision by British Gas to suspend its promotion programme which led to a 40 per cent fall in the United Kingdom central heating market.



Denis Allport: rise in remuneration

## Profit will not save CEGB chief

By Jonathan Davis, Energy correspondent

Mr Glyn England, who looks certain to lose his job as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, said yesterday that the CEGB was set to make an operating profit of about £32m in the financial year that ends in a few days. This will be £60m above the board's most recent forecast, and compares with an operating profit last year of £303m.

Mr England said that the profit was based on sales of 20 terawatt-hours, compared with a target of 212 terawatt-hours. It excludes interest charges, which are likely to turn the figures into an overall loss as they did last year.

The improved financial performance is unlikely to earn Mr England reappointment when his term as chairman expires in the next few weeks.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the energy Secretary, is understood to have decided to replace Mr England as soon as possible, although no successor has yet been announced.

At least one other of the board's five full-time members is thought to be on course to leave the board.

No fewer than four of the five have terms of office which expire between now and May, and no reappointment has been made although an announcement is imminent. They include Mr Fred Bonner, the deputy chairman, and Mr Dennis Lomer, board member in charge of construction.

Mr England, who has consistently defended state industries against attacks from Government ministers, said that the board's thermal efficiency was expected to be 0.3 per cent above last year's record, saving £30m.

Thermal efficiency is the efficiency with which coal or oil is converted to electricity.

The chairman also said that the CEGB had managed to hold its fuel costs at about 12 per cent last year's levels, compared with a forecast of 17.7 per cent. Manpower had been reduced by 7 per cent, with the total salary bill rising by 2.7 per cent.

## Crown Agents given new profit target

By Rupert Morris

The Crown Agents are to be set clear financial targets for the next three years, and must repay £10m of Government debt, Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday.

In a written Commons reply, Mr Marten said the Government was looking for a progressive improvement in the Crown Agents' financial performance.

The Crown Agents, who provide commercial, financial and professional services to about 100 governments and more than 200 overseas public authorities, made a £2m profit before tax in 1980 the last fully audited year.

They hope to make about £240m from the sale of their Australian property interests, which include the Hilton Hotel in Sydney and office buildings and shopping complexes in Sydney and Melbourne.

and 1981 the Crown Agents had been able to borrow at 20 per cent of WLF rates.

The new and much stricter financial regime has been introduced in accordance with the 1979 Crown Agents Act, which followed the scandal of the early 1970's when they lost £153m on the property markets.

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## Holmes a'Court groups censured

By Our Financial Staff

The Takeover Panel said yesterday that the two Australian companies engaged in the battle for Associated Communications Corporation — Bell Group and TVW Enterprises — were "deserving of censure" over deals in the companies' shares this month.

The panel said in its report that TVW, which like Bell is effectively run by Mr Robert Holmes a'Court, breached rule 31 of the Takeover Code by failing to announce details of purchase of ACC shares by noon the day after the dealing date.

Bell Group broke rule 32 (1) by not making sure that it immediately announced a higher offer price for ACC's non-voting shares when it had bought shares above the then offer price of 85p.

It said: "These breaches were not in any sense deliberately made, but it did constitute a culpable failure to ensure that the requirements of the code were being met."

"A direct consequence of this failure was that a false market, in the sense of a market denied information which should properly have been made available to it, did exist for an extended period of time."

The panel also criticized TVW's Australian stockbroker, Potter Partners, who immediately gave the London brokers who carried out the deals the impression that they were buying on their own account.

But TC Combs, the London stockbroker who reached Potter, "cannot escape some responsibility for the failure to prevent breaches of the code," it said.

The panel said the Potter partner in London had been "largely unaware" of the contents of the City Takeover Code and was "not sufficiently informed as to his responsibilities and obligations as a licensed dealer in securities."

Lombard North Central, the finance house subsidiary of NatWest is offering 13 per cent on fixed-rate deposits of one, two and three years and 12 per cent for four and five years. Minimum investment £1,000.

## Opec steps in to shield Nigeria

By our energy correspondent

Nigeria's oil crisis yesterday prompted the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to threaten to hold emergency meetings last week after its last one in Vienna.

Dr Mansoor Oteiba, Opec director, who is also oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, said the meeting would be called immediately unless the oil companies stopped trying to force Nigeria to cut its prices.

The problems faced by Nigeria, whose oil sales are reported to have been halved in the last week after Opec's

agreement to try to hold oil prices at their existing levels, had been the subjects of urgent consultations between the organization's 13 member countries. Unless the companies changed their stance, Dr Oteiba said, "we will call for an extraordinary meeting immediately."

The implication is clearly that Opec is ready to consider further cuts in its efforts to defend the existing pricing structure, based around a reference price of \$34 a barrel. The Vienna meeting last weekend decided to place a new ceiling on Opec output of 17.5

million barrels a day, a third below what Opec was producing at the start of last year.

Oil industry sources in London confirmed that Nigerian oil sales have slumped from around 1.2 million barrels a day to about 400,000 since last weekend. It is clear that many oil companies have refused to take Nigerian crude at its present price of \$35.50 a barrel when North Sea oil — which it is in

priced at \$31 a barrel. Nigeria has effectively banned most new imports in the face of the crisis.

## Critic fails in attack on Nationwide

By Drew Johnson

Mr Christopher Punt, 36, a Barnstaple, Devon, solicitor, yesterday failed in his all-out assault on the board and the rule-book of Britain's third biggest building society.

At the packed and highly vocal annual meeting of the Nationwide Building Society in London, Mr Punt rejected the board's assessment of the society's "excellent" 1981 results; challenged the reappointment of Touche Ross, auditor, and tried to re-write substantially the rule-book by putting down nearly 20 resolutions.

As a result the meeting closed after five and a half hours without completing its business.

But none of his proposals was approved, despite frequent bursts of applause for his attacks on the board's failure to disclose details on its entertainment expenditure.

Mr Punt's attack on Touche Ross began this year when he wrote asking it to disclose the amount spent on entertainment by Nationwide staff. Touche Ross refused on the grounds that it was not part of its duties to answer such questions for the society's members.

Mr Punt then demanded a resolution that Touche should not be reappointed, which the board refused, calling it wholly unreasonable despite demands from the floor to "let us see behind the dark corners", Mr Punt finally withdrew his resolution at the meeting.

Mr Punt's efforts to alter the society's rule book also failed after the board said: "Safeguarding assets of over £50,000m and the savings of 24 million investors is a complicated and onerous task and fundamental changes to the way the society is run, should not be lightly made."

One of the options being studied calls for production of 30,000 starter motors a week in Britain and more than double this number at Ducellier.

Lucas's electrical sales to the United Kingdom motor manufacturers have declined in line with the fall in United Kingdom vehicle production from 2.3 million in 1970, to 1.2 million last year. In the same period, French production increased from 2 to 3 million.

Unfair protest in battle to supply BL  
Lucas overpowers Chloride

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Lucas has won the battle with Chloride to become the sole batteries supplier to BL Cars. But last night, the loser complained of "unfair competition" and threatened possible legal action.

Both companies had been sharing the 500,000 batteries a year business and the loss of such a contract will almost certainly lead to redundancies among the 700 workers at Chloride's Dagenham factory.

BL's purchasing strategy is now geared to single sourcing of volume components to obtain more competitive prices. The improvement in labour relations at suppliers' factories over recent years has removed the need for the protection of a second supplier. In practice, no second supplier can step into the breach in time to prevent assembly lines stopping.

Chloride said last night: "We believe the decision went against us because Lucas's quotation was linked to the pricing policy covering a complete package of electrical equipment. If this is the case, it appears to us to be unfair competition and we are seeking advice to decide whether we have any legal redress. No one likes to lose an order in such a highly competitive

market. The loss of this contract will have an impact on our automotive battery business."

Lucas said: "We strongly refute any suggestion that there is a commercial link between battery prices and any of our other electrical components. Somebody had to win and we are naturally delighted that it was us. It will help to protect the 950 jobs at our Formans Road, Birmingham, battery factory where some redundancies were a distinct possibility."

A BL spokesman said: "We gave Lucas the business because they manufacture a complete range of electrical parts for cars, and there are advantages in dealing with someone manufacturing the whole package instead of one part. But the link is technical and not financial. There are very significant savings to be made in single sourcing in this way, and we intend to get every penny possible."

Lucas is also preparing an appeal to the British and French governments for financial assistance to develop a new range of lightweight electrical components and to produce them in extensively automated factories in both countries.

The plan calls for a dramatic improvement in productivity to combat Japanese electrical companies and Bosch in Germany.

Lucas has discussed the plan with union representatives in its loss-making starter motor division. One of the key proposals is a £20m investment to develop and produce a radically improved, lightweight starter motor.

The French connection is through Ducellier which is 50 per cent owned by Lucas and now managed by it, after a successful legal battle to prevent a takeover by a consortium of French companies. But Ducellier's role may be the stumbling block to winning union support.

One of the options being studied calls for production of 30,000 starter motors a week in Britain and more than double this number at Ducellier.

Lucas's electrical sales to the United Kingdom motor manufacturers have declined in line with the fall in United Kingdom vehicle production from 2.3 million in 1970, to 1.2 million last year. In the same period, French production increased from 2 to 3 million.

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## FAMILY MONEY

### Unstable franc a boon to tourists

The fall in the French franc this week will cheer holiday-makers who have planned an Easter break in France. And it may be the influx of foreign currency during the tourist season which will save the franc from devaluation.

The franc is vulnerable because French inflation is running at a level well above that of most of its partners in the European Monetary System (EMS). What has happened is that French investors, aware that rising inflation usually brings about a fall in the currency, have been carrying out their traditional operations of taking their cash out of the country.

For the short-term it looks attractive to have money in the French franc — one-month rates have been as high as 50 per cent and overnight rates 75 per cent as the central bank fought against the speculators. (See family money market for current rates). Many banks in the foreign exchange market take the view that the central bank will be able to stave off a devaluation of the currency in the tourist season. Several million tourists buy French francs in the summer.

At some stage the French franc will probably have to devalue again. It was made more vulnerable when the Belgian franc devalued, because until then the Belgian currency was the weakest in the EMS. Exporters had become more reluctant to convert their dollars or Deutschmarks back to French francs, adding to the drain on the currency.



Ian Ball, UDT's treasurer

## UDT's seven-day wonder

United Dominions Trust came back into the market this week with its highly successful Average Rate Deposit scheme — a seven day money fund which offers investors with £5,000 or more, whole-sale money market rates on their deposits.

Interest currently being offered by UDT is 13.75 per cent which compares reasonably well with the competition, Simco and Tyndall. Both these money funds currently offer slightly higher rates at 13.6 per cent and 13.5 per cent respectively.

The original Average Rate Deposit scheme was so popular, taking in over £150m that UDT had to close it to new investors last September. Remaining depositors in the old scheme which has since been run as a closed fund are being given the option of switching to the Mark II version or taking their cash. The rate paid on the new Average Rate Deposit scheme is approximately 1 per cent less than on the old scheme.

The differential between the 10 per cent or 10.25 per cent offered by the high street banks on their seven-day deposit accounts, and the 13 per cent plus, available from the money funds, is sufficiently large for investors to defect from the banks in considerable numbers.

Most disgruntled will be small investors with the Trustee Savings Bank which now owns UDT. These savers are being paid between 7 and 10 per cent in most cases with a few TSBs like the Aberdeen, Birmingham and Channel Islands, Matching the money funds 13 per cent. The average balance on TSB investment accounts is only £883, so few small savers will be eligible to take advantage of the more generous rates available from the sister operation UDT.

Interest on the Average Rate Deposit scheme is calculated weekly and is based on the average of dealing rates for seven day notice funds in the local authority market during the preceding week. UDT offers 0.5 per cent below this rate which is effectively its management charge. It sounds complicated but all the investor needs to know is that historically the rate paid has beaten that offered by the banks for seven-day deposit by a considerable margin.

Indeed it has generally beaten the "grossed up" building society rate too. Money funds are particularly attractive to children and the elderly who pay little or no tax. Interest is paid without deduction of basic rate tax so there is no need to get involved in complicated claims for tax refunds.

UDT's fund pays interest at quarterly intervals and seven days' notice is required for withdrawals. Minimum deposit is £5,000. Both withdrawals and deposits must be for at least £1,000.

In some respects the schemes run by Simco, a subsidiary of the giant financial services group, Mercantile House, and Tyndall, the Bristol-based fund managers and licensed deposit takers, are more attractive.

Like UDT, both Simco and Tyndall's schemes are seven day notice accounts, but Simco's minimum investment is only £1,000 with additional deposits or withdrawals fixed at £500. Interest is paid half yearly or on total repayment of the deposit.

Simco also runs dollar funds on similar lines but here the minimum is much higher at \$25,000. Tyndall requires a minimum initial investment of £2,500 and pays interest quarterly. Account holders can have a cheque book. If you give seven days' notice of withdrawal there is no penalty, but using the cheque book facility, 7 days' interest will be deducted on the amount withdrawn from the day the cheque is received back at Tyndall's office. Given that the recipient of the cheque will probably sit on it for at least 24 hours before paying it into the bank, and allowing for

the three days it takes to clear a cheque, the loss of interest is usually minimal.

All three money funds have been in existence for several years now and it is surprising how slow the banks' customers have been to take advantage of this considerably more attractive opportunity.

Clearly many savers are simply unaware of the existence of the money funds, and do not realize what a raw deal they are getting from their bank.

There are still large numbers of non-taxpayers putting their money into building societies and they too would do much better with a money fund.

Reluctance to move might be attributable to straightforward apathy in some cases, but there may also be a genuine concern for security. Investors need have no fears on this score. UDT is owned by the Trustee Savings Bank, Simco is part of a multi-million pound financial services group, Mercantile House, which is itself directly under the control of the Bank of England, and Tyndall, as a licensed deposit taking institution, is also supervised by the Bank. Further details are available from Simco: 01-236 0233, UDT: 01-623 3020 or Tyndall 0272 732241.

Lorna Bourke

## MONEY TALK

### Spa bond issue at 10.35%

Investors looking for a fixed-rate short-term investment will be pleased to see an issue of Leamington Spa Building Society's "Spa Bond". The new version will be available from April 1 and offers a return of 10.35 per cent over the 12-month term.

Most building society investments are variable rate accounts — the Spa Bond guarantees to pay the fixed rate of 10.35 per cent, net of basic rate tax. Building societies will be paying 8.75 per cent on ordinary share accounts from April 1.

### Trust at discount

Unit trusts at a discount? It sounds too good to be true but the Manchester firm of Charlotte House Financial Services is offering a 1 per cent discount on all purchases of unit trusts. It is simply rebating one per cent of the 3 per cent commission it is entitled to as a "qualified intermediary", recognised by the Unit Trust Association.

The rebate is paid in cash, within approximately 28 days of your purchase. Charlotte House expects you to make your own choice of unit trust, however, though it produces a monthly list of recommendations.

### Flexishares

Flexishares from Peterborough Building Society will still be paying 10 per cent net of basic rate tax, even after the rate adjustment on April 1. Minimum investment is £2,000 and income can be taken monthly, a facility which 20 per cent of investors use. Withdrawals are available on 28 days notice.

### Payments cover

Housebuyers can insure against the financial consequences of redundancy through a scheme set up by the National Association of Estate Agents. For a premium of £39 the mortgage repayments will be made for a period of up to two years, in the event of the borrower being made redundant.

The cover lasts two years but can be renewed annually, provided there is no change in the original mortgage.

### Saturday service

Bristol & West Building Society is extending its facilities with 12-hour counter service, six days a week at its main Bristol banking hall.

Payments and withdrawals can be made from 9 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday, and there will also be a Saturday afternoon service for homebuyers who find difficulty getting to the branch during office hours. Staff will be on duty at Bristol & West's Broad Quay head office until 5 pm on Saturdays to deal with mortgage applications and advise on house purchase.

The opening hours are an experiment and there is as yet no commitment to extend the service to other branches.

Most building society offices open on Saturday mornings when banks are closed and the move by Bristol & West is yet another round in the battle between the banks and building societies for personal account customers.

### Growth bonds

For basic rate taxpayers, there can be very little to better the 12 per cent net of basic rate tax being offered on two income and growth bonds from Manulife. Both are four-year fixed-term investments; one provides a guaranteed income of 12 per cent net of basic rate tax and the other guaranteed growth of 12 per cent.

Minimum investment is £1,000 and interest on the income bond is paid annually. The £1,000 growth bond will be worth £1,574 on redemption at the end of the four-year term.

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### The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Dividend	Yld %	Actual	P/E Ratio
129	100		Ass Brit Ind CULS	129	-	10.0	7.8	-	16.0
23	62		Airsprung Group	73	-	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0
51	33		Armstrong & Rhodes	45	-	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
205	187		Bardon Hill	198	-2	9.7	4.9	9.6	11.7
107	100		CCIL 11% Conv Pref	107	-	15.7	14.7	-	-
104	63		Deborah Services	63	-	6.0	9.5	3.1	5.9
131	97		Frank Horsell	125	-1	6.4	5.1	11.4	23.3
83	39		Frederick Parker	78x4	-	6.4	8.2	4.0	7.6
78	46		George Blair	53	-1	-	-	-	-
102	92		Ind Prec Castings	97	-	7.3	7.5	7.0	10.5
109	100		Isle Coast Pref	101	-	15.7	14.5	-	-
113	94		Jackson Group	97	-	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	108		James Burrough	116	-	8.7	7.5	8.5	10.6
334	248		Robert Jenkins	250	-2	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8
64	51		Scruttons "A"	64	-	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
222	129		Turday & Carlisle	159	-	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
15	10		Twinkl Ord	14	-	-	-	-	-
80	66		Twinkl 15% ULS	79x	-	15.0	18.9	-	-
44	25		Unilock Holdings	25	-	8.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103	73		Walter Alexander	79	-	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2
263	212		W. S. Veates	231	-	14.5	8.3	6.0	12.1

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146



Antony Milford of Framlington: opportunities

## Framlington bets on a recovery

If past performance is anything to go by, the Recovery Trust launched this week by Framlington should be a runaway success. Framlington's track record as successful unit trust managers is impressive. Over seven years to December 31, 1981, Framlington's Capital Trust — the first of its stable of seven — came top of the general fund league table and since its launch in 1969 has shown capital growth of 306 per cent.

Two years later Framlington set up an income trust which has done equally well, showing 177 per cent capital growth with an increase in income from £47.40 per £1,000 invested to £134.64 in 1981.

Units in Framlington's International Growth Fund have nearly quadrupled in value since its launch in October 1976 and Framlington's other trusts have turned in respectable profits.

The Recovery Trust comes on the market at what looks like the right time to take advantage of the turnaround in British industry. "There will be a lot of recovery opportunities over the next

few years," says Antony Milford, who is managing the trust. "Some will be individual companies, others whole sectors emerging from recession. For Recovery Trust I hope to take advantage of both for a good spread of shares with possibilities of exceptional growth."

Mr Milford makes it plain that he is looking for genuine recovery situations, not simply shares which happen to have fallen in price. "Virtually the whole of British manufacturing industry is in a recovery situation," he says, but the fund will have the freedom to invest overseas as well as in Britain.

He expects to be putting about 75 per cent of the fund into British shares with the balance going overseas — mainly in the United States in the short term.

Recovery funds carry a greater risk than the less volatile growth funds, but the potential rewards are commensurately higher. Antony Milford believes that a unit trust is the best route for small investors.

## Boarders repelled

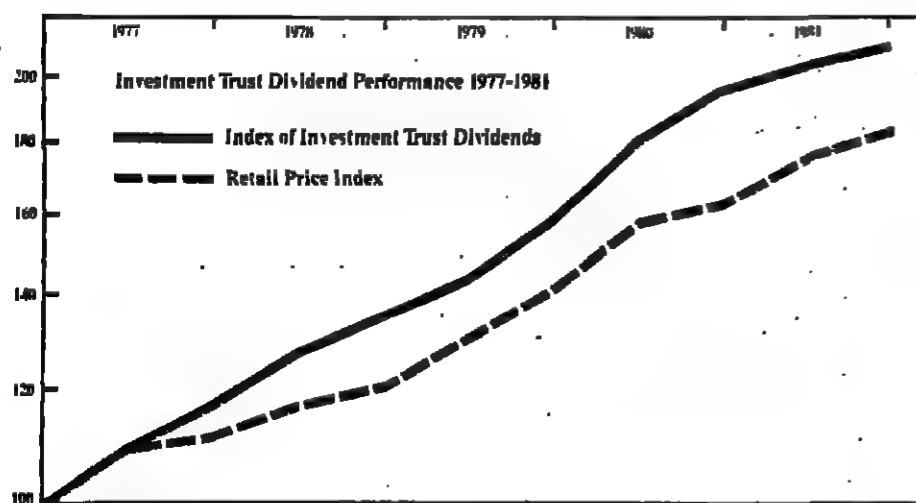
The movement towards greater member participation in the affairs of building societies suffered a setback yesterday when several members who stood for election to the board of Nationwide Building Society were, once again, defeated.

Mr Paul Batley who has stood every year for some

time now came nearest to election with some 30,000 votes, less than half the votes for Sir Peter Trenc and Mr Eric Cassford, the two retiring directors who were both re-elected. Mr P. F. J. Punt who had made good use of the member's right to propose changes to the society's rules by tabling 21 resolutions, managed 20,000 votes.

# Many have tried to help you to beat inflation. Investment Trusts succeeded.

If you're a private investor running hard not to be overtaken by inflation, you should consider the record of Investment Trusts. While past performance is not necessarily a guide to future achievement, the graph below shows that the rise in Investment Trust dividends over the 5 year period to the end of December 1981 was greater than the rise in the Retail Price Index.



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EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

## Reducing the cost of giving — with Sir Geoffrey's help



Two friendly Budgets in a row have taken most of the challenge, some would say agony, out of avoiding Capital Transfer Tax. With the promise of index linking for both thresholds and rate bands in the future, CTT is fast becoming a future tax — at least for the living who are in a position to plan their affairs.

The Budget left unchanged the basic individual exemption of £3,000 which can be given away in any year without any penalty in the future. Anyone who has not so far used this exemption in the 1981-82 tax year should do so before April 6. For married couples the exemption level is doubled. Transfers between husband and wife are exempt.

CTT for married couples works on quite different principles from Capital Gains Tax, where spouses are still, rather unfairly, taxed together. Has there been a wedding in the family this year? Parents of the bride and bridegroom have an exemption of £5,000 each for wedding gifts to the happy couple. Grandparents have a £2,500 exemption. Any number of gifts to different people up to £250 each are also exempt.

If you did not use up your £2,000 exemption for 80-81 you can carry it forward to this tax year — provided you use up all your current year exemption first. You cannot carry any unused exemption forward more than one year.

The big change in the Budget was raising the starting point for CTT from £50,000 to £55,000 with the proviso that this will be index linked in future. The £55,000 threshold is cumulative, based on the last 10 years record of transfers, excluding the annual exemptions. All your gifts over the last 10 years are added up and any excess over the threshold becomes taxable.

If you have not yet made over any money, apart from the annual exemptions, it pays to do so as soon as possible and for as large an amount you can afford. For it is the most recent 10-year period that will be taken into account when assessing liability.

In year 11, the first year "drops out" of the calculation first and concentrating the transfers in that year will give greater scope for bumping up the amount later on.

On the other hand, if you are up against the £55,000 limit already and want to give more money away, hold on. For it is certain that the £55,000 threshold will rise at regular intervals to take account of inflation. This means you can bump up your transfer to match the increase. Plus, of course, there are the tax-free annual exemptions in each tax year.

It is clear from the table that generosity in life is infinitely cheaper than enforced distribution after death. At over £55,000 when CTT starts to bite, the lifetime rate is half the rate after death. And the top lifetime rate is 50 per cent, against 75 per cent on death.

Tax Band	Death Rate %	Lifetime Rate %
Up to £55,000	Nil	Nil
£55,001 to £75,000	30	15
£75,001 to £100,000	35	17½
£100,001 to £130,000	40	20
£130,001 to £165,000	45	22½
£165,001 to £200,000	50	25
£200,001 to £250,000	55	30
£250,001 to £250,000	60	35
£250,001 to £250,000	65	40
£250,001 to £250,000	70	45
Over £250,000	75	50

Margaret Drummond

# FRAMLINGTON RECOVERY

The new unit trust for investors seeking high rewards from recovery situations

**F**RAMLINGTON Recovery Trust will aim for maximum capital growth through investment in recovery situations.

These arise when, for one reason or another, a company falls to a level where they are exceptionally cheap. When the company does "recover", perhaps with a change of market conditions or as a result of sharp management action, those who bought when the shares were cheap stand to do very well.

With an individual company there is of course a risk that the recovery may never take place. This is why a unit trust is such a good vehicle for investing in recoveries. Because it invests in a wide spread of recovery situations a unit trust can shrug off the occasional casualty. The potential rewards from the successes can be very high.

Recovery trusts run by other unit trust groups have done well in the past; the managers believe that a recovery fund run by Framlington should give outstanding results in the future.

**Timing.** In the opinion of the managers this is a good time to invest. Recovery funds tend to do exceptionally well when the economy as a whole is pulling out from recession.

**Flexibility.** The trust will invest primarily in UK shares, but will not be limited by geographical area, size of company or market sector.

**Track record.** Last December the Observer chose us as Unit Trust Managers of the Year, noting our "enviable record of long-term results". The March issue of Money Management comments "Best management group in 1981, without a shadow of a doubt, is Framlington, which has collected number 1 rankings for all its funds over both the one year and the three year periods". Over five years, funds under management have grown from £5.5 million to £68 million.

**Personal involvement.** Framlington funds are run by the individual manager, not by committee. Recovery Trust will be managed by Antony Milford, whose other funds include our highly successful Inter-

national Growth Fund and Framlington Income Trust, the best performing income trust over the last ten years.

**Value for money.** The annual charge is at the standard Framlington rate, still only 1.2% + VAT. The trust does include powers to increase this to a maximum of 1% if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 5%. When units are sold back to us, payment is normally made on the day we receive the renounced certificate.

The estimated initial gross starting yield is 4%. However, since the investment policy is to aim for pure capital growth, investors may feel that accumulation units in which the net income is reinvested are more appropriate than income units from which net income is distributed.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Units in Framlington Recovery Trust are available at 50p each until 3 pm on Friday 16th April 1982. The minimum initial investment is 1,000 units, which cost £500. From 19th April units will be available at the ruling offer price.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications will be acknowledged; certificates will be sent by the registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, within 41 days. For the initial offer contract notes are not issued; an application form must be used, accompanied by a cheque, from 19th April units can be bought by post or telephone in the usual way. The minimum initial investment is £500. Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields are published daily in leading newspapers.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to holders of income units on 15th March and 15th September. The first distribution will be on 15th March 1982.

Completion of 1% + VAT is paid to qualified intermediaries. The trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. It is a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC3M 5NQ. Telephone 01-438 3181. Registered in England No 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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Signature(s)..... Date.....

(Over applicants should fill in and enclose details separately)

FRAMLINGTON RECOVERY TRUST

## World Cup offer to Woolwich investors

### Woolwich Building Society

launches a football competition for investors with the society the chance to see England's first round matches in the 1982 World Cup.

The competition is based on "Spot the Ball" principles and will run until April 30. First prize is an all expenses paid trip for two to Bilbao, where England plays Czechoslovakia. France and Kuwait. Runners up will receive 12 World Cup footballs signed by each member of England's team with a special local branch competition for a Kevin Keegan football.

Woolwich will also be selling World Cup fixture charts incorporating a photograph of the England football stars, with all profits going to the Variety Club of Great Britain, charts will cost 40p but will be given free to investors opening an account.

Woolwich is also improving the terms on its higher interest shares which presently pay 1 per cent above the ordinary share rate.

Most building societies will be adjusting their rates on April 1 to take account of the recent interest rate cuts and the new ordinary share rate will be 8.75 per cent from that date but the notice period, presently three months, is to be reduced to a month. Investors wanting to make instant withdrawals will suffer 28 days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. There are no penalties if the required notice is given.

## Thousands lose out on insurance overpayments

This year's higher national insurance contributions will soon begin to bite. With the increases will come the complaints about the ever-increasing burden. Yet surprisingly each year millions of pounds in national insurance contributions are paid unnecessarily.

The 100,000 or so people who find themselves in this position to very little about the system and most are quite content to sit back and let the Department of Health and Social Security return the money later — usually much later. In some cases, the overpayments amount to hundreds of pounds.

How does this situation come about? An increasing number of people are taking second jobs, and in some cases even third jobs, to earn some extra cash to help make ends meet.

However, under the national insurance rules which came into operation in 1975, national insurance contributions have to be paid in every job whether you are an employee or self-employed. Where someone has two or three jobs, this may mean paying contributions two or three times over.

The amounts involved can be large. Those earning £220 or more a week from April 6 will pay around £1,000 a year in national insurance contributions (or £19.25 a week). Anyone with earnings above this level in two jobs will pay more than is necessary unless they take action.

There is a maximum annual payment. This maximum varies according to circumstances — whether people are employees, or self-employed; whether they are contracted out of the state pension arrangements of not. But as a

rough guide, anyone who pays substantially more than £1,000 in national insurance in 1982/83 should be in line for a refund.

The best course of action is however to avoid making the overpayment. The DHSS allows "deferral" of some contributions when it is evident that income from one or more jobs will reach the year's maximum.

Broken down into simple weekly terms it works like this. The maximum weekly earnings from April 6 on which contributions will be paid are £220. A man who in 1982/83 expects to earn £240 in his main job and £50 a week in a part-time job, will meet the maximum requirement in his main job, so he can avoid having to pay contributions in his second

job by applying to defer them.

Alternatively, take the case of someone who has three jobs and earns £150, £80, and £40 a week respectively. Because wages in jobs one and two take him over the limit, he can ask for contributions on job three to be deferred. And because he will probably pay more than the maximum in jobs one and two, he can look forward to a refund, as well.

The DHSS produces two leaflets which give full details. "More than one job" (NP24) is for those who work as employees, and "Class 4 contributions" (NP18) is for those who have a mixture of employed and self-employed jobs. Both have the necessary application forms.

Ian McDonald

### FAMILY MONEY MARKETS

**Current account** — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds, and NatWest 10½ per cent. Midland, 10 per cent. seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £5,000-£25,000, fixed-term deposits — 1 month 12½ per cent, 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

**Money funds** — Seven-day deposits. Since 7-day fund — 13.6 per cent. UDT "Average Rate Deposits" — 13.375 Tyndall 7-day Fund 13.5 per cent. Simco dollar fund 13.62. Interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from: Simco 01 238 0233, UDT 01 623 3020, Tyndall 0272 732241.

**New Scheme** — old scheme now discontinued.

**National Savings Bank** — Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. Reducing to 14 per cent on 1st March and 13½ per cent on April 1 and 13 per cent 1st May.

**Guaranteed Income Bonds** — Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Two years. General Portfolio Life — Eurofife 9.8 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Three years. General Portfolio 10.03 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Four years. American Life, 12.00-13.5 per cent (dependent on age) — minimum investment £1,000. Eurofife five years 12% min. investment £1,000.

**Building societies** — 8.75 per cent. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

**Local authority yearling bonds** — 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13½ per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). 1 year 12½-2.6 years 13½-7-10 14%. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Loans, Bureau 01-828 7855, after 3 pm. See also on Preford no 24805.

**Local authority town hall bonds** — Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year 12½-2.6 years 13½-7-10 14%. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Loans, Bureau 01-828 7855, after 3 pm. See also on Preford no 24805.

**Finance for industry** — Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13½ per cent; 5-7 years, 13 per cent; 8-10 years, 13 per cent. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

**Finance house deposits** (UDT) — Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 12½ per cent; 1 year, 12½ per cent; 2 years, 13 per cent.

**Foreign currency deposits** — Interest paid without deduction of tax.

US dollar (call) 11½ p.c. 11½ p.c. Yen (2 days) 3½ p.c. 3½ p.c. D. Mark 26 p.c. 26½ p.c. Swiss Franc Nil p.c. Nil p.c.

\*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

**Lombard North Central**, the finance house subsidiary of NatWest, is offering 13 per cent on fixed-rate deposits of one, two and three years, and 12 per cent for four and five years. Minimum investment £1,000.



Sir Herbert Ashworth

# Nationwide in action '81

In his speech to members of the Society on March 26th 1982, Sir Herbert Ashworth, Chairman of Nationwide Building Society, reported on Nationwide's continued progress in 1981.

"Nationwide achieved excellent results against a background of increasing competition for both savings and mortgage business."



Mortgage advances in 1981 totalled £1,026 million. We now help over 454,000 home buyers. Of our total of 64,000 new borrowers about half were first-time buyers. We advanced over £70 million for home improvements.

During 1981 our choice of savings schemes helped nearly 2.9 million investors — an increase of over 200,000 — make the most of their money. Gross investment receipts were £2,538 million and our total assets rose 15.7% to over £5,382 million — a record.

Nationwide is contributing to urban renewal programmes in the city centres of Liverpool, Manchester and Belfast where housing improvements are urgently needed.



We are continuing to assist in other areas of special housing need by working closely with local authorities, housing associations and builders. Nationwide is also playing an active part in the Financial Institutions Group set up by the Secretary of State for the Environment to study some of the housing problems in deprived urban areas.

## It pays to decide Nationwide

Please call in at any of our 1,100 branches or agency branches for your free copy of our 1981 Report and details of our services for investors and borrowers.



## Dunbar Fund Managers Limited

The specialists in Private Portfolio Management

Dunbar Fund Managers Limited offers private clients with portfolios of £25,000 or more proven investment management skills, backed up by an advanced, efficient administrative service.

Dunbar Fund Managers' activities are confined entirely to the management of portfolios for private individuals, family trusts and smaller institutional funds and their specialist team now manages some £700,000,000.

If you would like to learn more about our professional service to private clients, please contact

Brian Banks, Chairman  
Dunbar Fund Managers Limited,  
53 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH  
Telephone: 01-930 2122

### MONEY TALK

## Spa bond issue at 10.35%

Investors looking for a fixed short-term investment may be pleased to see an issue of the "Spa Bond" Building Society. The version will be available on April 1 and offers a rate of 10.35 per cent over 12-month term.

### Just at discount

Trusts at a discount? It is too good to be true. The Manchester firm of the "House of Finance" is offering a 1 per cent discount on all purchases of unit trusts. It is a rebating one per cent on the 3 per cent commission entitled to as a "qualified intermediary" recognised by the Unit Trust Association.

### exishares

Shares from Potomac Building Society will be paying 10 per cent net of basic rate tax, even after rate adjustment on April 6. Minimum investment is £100 and income can be paid monthly, a facility which 20 per cent of investors use. Withdrawals are available on 28 days notice.

### payments cover

Homebuyers can insure against the financial consequences of redundancy through a scheme set up by the National Association of Estate Agents. For a premium of £10 the mortgage payments will be made for period of up to two years, the event of the borrower making redundant.

### aturday service

Most building societies are offering Saturday services. Some are offering a 12-hour unit service, six days a week, at their main branches.

### Most building societies

are offering Saturday services. Some are offering a 12-hour unit service, six days a week, at their main branches.

### The opening hours

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**Figure 6**

# Welsh comfort dependent on Swansea's tenacity

By Norman Fox

There is no real compensation for being left at home when all the other home countries go to Spain for the World Cup in June, but a championship triumph for Swansea City would certainly ease Welsh disappointment. Whether John Toshack can keep fending off Southampton, Manchester United, Liverpool and the mathematically dangerous Tottenham Hotspur depends on winning awkward games like today's against Ipswich Town at the Vetch Field.

Ipswich have not given up hope of regaining the title challenge and they emphasised their interest by beating the champions, Aston Villa, 3-1 last Saturday. Their injury list remains long, with Mariner, Thijsen and Butcher still absent but the highly talented South African forward, D'Avray, has recovered from a knee injury. If he proves his fitness this morning it will be O'Callaghan who moves over.

There is also better news of Butcher, the central defender who has spent a month in hospital after seriously damaging his nose. He plays for the reserves today, though obviously without the heft of his previous Swansea. Latchford has also been out for some time with tendon trouble but he hopes to be recalled with the first winger, Leighton James, who missed his 50th cap for Wales this week because of hamstring problems.

The Swansea defence is weakened by Rajkovic's suspension. However, another Yugoslav, Hadziahmedovic, can be brought in to cope with D'Avray and the Brazil, who had an effective game against the Netherlands at Hampden Park on Tuesday.

Allan Evans, the Aston Villa central defender, was less happy in his appearance for Scotland, though it was his first and he has had a trying season attempting to keep up Villa's sailing side. Today Villa go to Highbury where last season they celebrated winning the championship. On that day they set out needing a point and today that is all they can expect to take from an Arsenal team with Leary restored to the defence. Mariner, who had not expected to return to Villa's team for another week, is hoping to appear but Bremner is out with a leg strain.

Of the leading six in the first division, only Ipswich and Liverpool play away. Liverpool's journey is one to Walsley Park in Everton. In a season



Latchford... fit and banking on a recall

overshadowed by financial crises, a feature has been the public's willingness to attend 'big' games while ignoring the more mundane matches. Over 50,000 have already bought their tickets for Goodison Park.

Recent derby games on Merseyside have been too rustic, and with Liverpool now dependent on winning the championship in order to gain a place in next season's European Cup, the theme is likely to be maintained. McDermott has recovered from the knee injury which cost him

# RUGBY LEAGUE

## Castleford have the Wembley commitment

By Keith Macklin

The team which wins today's first semi-final in the Castleford Challenge Cup, sponsored by State Express, will travel to Wembley on May 1 as the underdogs, but with the backing of all uncommitted supporters.

Next week's semi-final is between Widnes and Leeds, who between them have taken the trophy five times in the past. These two sides have collected a trophy per season on average, and their skills and big match temperament have become almost synonymous with success. Castleford and Hull have taken the odd trophy, but the last time either team went to Wembley was the winning visit of Castleford to play Widnes in 1974.

Hull are the great bridesmaids of the Challenge Cup. They have won it only once, in 1914, but have been runners-up on eight occasions. Their last defeat was a particularly galling one, against Hull Kingston Rovers two seasons ago.

Each of the teams have had the experience of collecting a trophy this season. Castleford won the John Player Trophy, but for all clubs the Challenge Cup at Wembley is the big one. In many respects it is a pity that these teams have played in the semi-final stage, since a meeting between them at Wembley would have provided an excellent open season.

Hull will be favourites to win. They are having their best season after spending a vast amount of money on new players from Britain and New Zealand.

Two purchases from South Yorkshire clubs Norton and Skerrett have been in magnificent form in the past, and Skerrett, who has been playing against his old club, Hull, in addition to the home talent, Hull have enterprisingly recruited three New Zealand internationals in Kember, O'Hara and Leulua, and this trio has added flair to a once pedestrian back division.

Castleford are handicapped by the absence of their two first choice hookers, Beardmore and Spurr, the responsible ball-getting job goes to a prop forward, Hardy, and Castleford will look to at least a reasonable share of possession in order to mount the flowing attacks which are their hallmark.

As with all major cup ties this will be a closely fought battle, and such has been the tendency of Hull's forwards to be over-challenged on occasions that I would not be surprised to see Castleford win today.

In tomorrow's championship game, Leeds will have the opportunity to edge closer to Widnes, who have no match. Leigh should win comfortably at home to York, who are destined to be relegated.

# Part V: Despite its elitist appearance, the Jockey Club is efficient

## Born to hold the reins and keep sport in check

By Marcel Berlins

"It is a curious but perhaps appropriate feature of the Jockey Club that its secretariat should be bred rather than recruited in the usual manner," the Rothschild Commission on Gambling commented. The Commission found it difficult to make any radical proposals for reform precisely because the administration of racing is so full of quirks of structure and custom that it is now virtually impossible to unravel.

Here is an entire industry that is run, for the most part, by a private club, more than 200 years old, aided by a secretariat which has, for almost as long, been provided by members of one family, the Weatherbys. That part of racing which is not the direct preserve of the Jockey Club is administered by the statutory Horserace Betting Levy Board, in which the Jockey Club plays a powerful influence, perhaps dominant, role.

At the end of last year the club had 109 members, and if the proportion of titled members is less than it was (though still fewer than 40 members of the plain "Mr") there has been some opening of the doors to people who, perhaps only a decade or two ago, would not have stood a chance — women, former jockeys, brash, self-made businessmen (like Sir Frederick Lowe, the former chairman of the Jockey Club, elected by the existing membership).

The day-to-day administration of racing is carried out by Weatherbys, a family firm, working under contract to the Jockey Club. The runners and riders for every race, the weights, the draw, the handicapping system, even the allocation of owners' colours are all handled through their modern, computerised offices at Wellingborough. The accounts are there too. The entry fees come in, and the prize money goes out to the fortunate. It is highly efficient, and not at all old-fashioned in outlook.

All this — the entire administration of racing — operates on a budget which this year will be about £3m. The Jockey Club's income comes mainly from fees received from racecourses for various services rendered, from entry fees, and from charges for licences, permits and registrations. The bulk of the expenditure goes to pay Weatherbys and for the salaries of racecourse personnel.

The Rothschild Commission proposed the setting up of a British Racing Authority — with the Jockey Club playing a prominent role in its administrative and legislative body. There was little backing, either in Parliament or within racing, for the proposal, but Rothschild's point that there was too little consultation involving the various interested groups in racing, and no advisory machinery, was taken to heart. The Horserace Advisory Council was set up in 1980.

After a stormy start, which saw the resignation of its first chairman, Mr Paul Butler, the H.A.C. has settled down under the chairmanship of Major General R. B. Penfold, recently returned to England after a successful eight year spell as racing supremo in Hongkong. The H.A.C. consists of representatives from every corner of the racing industry.

General Penfold believes that the Council is making progress on two fronts: first, the constituent groups are beginning to treat it as more than a merely cosmetic exercise. Second, the H.A.C. is being consulted, both formally and informally, and more by the Jockey Club before important decisions are taken.

General Penfold claims that H.A.C. opinion has had some positive effect, for instance, in the decision to allocate a greater proportion of prize money to National Hunt racing rather than the Flat, and in persuading the Levy Board to recycle money saved when fixtures are abandoned into replacement race meetings.

This view of the H.A.C. is shared by all. Some of its members regard it as a harmless but ineffective talking shop, and as a device for

enforcing the rules. But to criticise the Jockey Club for being an elitist, self-perpetuating body drawn largely from a particular social class is to miss the point. The question should be: how well does it run racing? The answer to that is that its administration is efficient, relatively cheap, because so many of its services are provided by volunteers, and utterly honest. To replace it by, say, a national statutory body with paid officials would undoubtedly be chaotic and hugely expensive. For one thing, the Jockey Club and its satellites have the monopoly of knowledge and experience of running racing.

The Jockey Club's functions and responsibilities extend to every aspect of racing. It draws up, administers and enforces the rules of racing; it is the disciplinary body for breaches of the rules; it is the licensing body for jockeys and trainers, and has the power to take away their livelihood if they offend against the rules.

It has its own investigation squad, provides security services for racecourses, and employs patrols and photo-finish equipment for the races themselves. It controls the testing of horses for drugs. Its stewards — unpaid — are at every race meeting to ensure that the rules are complied with and to settle disputes. It lays down the weights and financial conditions of races.

One of its most important functions is to determine the fixture list. No race can be run without the Jockey Club's approval, and it alone lays down the criteria for allocating race meetings. Because of the necessity to have at least two race

# Halifax scrap reserve side

Halifax Town have withdrawn their reserve side from the North Midlands League because of a scandal involving a player. The club is now considering whether to scrap the reserve side altogether.

# Cost of failure

Dundee United have been fined £2,000 by the Scottish League for their failure to turn up for the final of the Scottish Second XI Cup at Ayr United earlier this month.

# Approval for Jarama

Paris, March 26. — The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) today gave its approval for the staging of a Formula One Event on the Jarama circuit near Madrid on June 27. A place on the Formula One calendar is to be secured for the month when the Argentine Grand Prix, scheduled for March 7, was cancelled.

# Enforces the rules

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# ON COURSE

Jockey Club stewards monitor every race that is run in Britain.

# WEEKEND FIXTURES

First division	Second division
Arsenal v Aston Villa	Blackburn v C Palace
Birmingham v Brighton	Derby v Luton
Coventry v Wolves	Grimsby v Wrexham
Everton v Liverpool	Leeds v Charlton
Manchester United v Sunderland	Leicester v Ipswich
Middlesbrough v Manchester City	Manchester United v Norwich
Notts Co v Leeds	Oldham v Barnsley
Southampton v Stoke	Rotherham v Q.P.R.
Sheff Wed v Ipswich	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.
West Brom v Tottenham	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.
West Ham v Nottm Forest	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.

# Rugby Union

Scottish premier division	Scottish first division	Scottish second division
Celtic v Aberdeen	Ayr v Stirling	Alloa v Clyde
Dundee v Forth	Clydebank v Hearts	Arbroath v Meadowbank
Hibernian v Rangers	Falkirk v St Johnstone	Berwick v East Fife
Partick v Dundee	Greenock v Clydebank	Brackley v Stirling
St. Mirren v Airdrie	Queen's Park v Hamilton	Brackley v Stirling

# Winning ways of a jockey turned administrator

By Michael Seely

Christopher Collins is one of the one hundred or so members of the Jockey Club. Naturally, the old guard and the aristocracy are well represented. The Queen and the Queen Mother are the patrons of the club. But also numbered amongst its ranks are industrialists, and businessmen such as Lord Glynthorpe and Mr Louis Freedman. Mr Collins had made his name as a man of action although he is a chartered accountant.

Between 1968 and 1975 he turned a family firm of Goya perfumes into such a thriving concern that he was able to sell the business to ICI.

The spark that kindled the flames of Mr Collins' ambition to become a jockey was his purchase of Mr Jones before the 1965 Grand National. Although the finish was fought out between Jay Trump and Freddie, Mr Collins and his partner, Peter, were on to take third place, 20 lengths behind the two principals. And so the dye was cast. Plans to join a firm of accountants in Paris were shelved and with the aid of the Durham trainer, Arthur Stephenson, Mr Collins decided to transform himself into an accomplished amateur jockey.

This was no easy task for Mr Collins is hardly fashioned in the conventional mould for such a role. He is 5ft 11in in his stockinged feet and weighs 13 stone.

But he achieved remarkable results. Mr Collins was champion amateur for two seasons between 1965 and 1967. He won the Cheltenham

# JOCKEY CLUB

This far from august building has the control point for all aspects of British racing

The case made against the Jockey Club and the Levy Board is that their policies and priorities will result in a "two-nation" racing structure, a polarisation between the glamorous few and the rest, instead of the more even spread that exists at present. Some go further, believing the Jockey Club is really trying to reduce the number of racecourses in Britain, possibly by about 10 (there are 59 at present), and thereby also reduce the number of second-rate horses in training.

Jockey Club members will admit privately that they think a more streamlined structure would benefit racing, but deny that there is a sinister plan to force racecourses out of business.

Nevertheless that is what the future of racing may hold. The unexplained vitality of racing during the recession, especially the fact that there seems to be a drop in ownership, in spite of higher prices of horses and higher training fees, may not last.

The recent "Blue Report" into the distribution of the levy is an example of the close opinion of the two bodies. Indeed, it was a joint exercise — the committee of inquiry consisted of three members from each. It took an uncompromisingly elitist approach. Its main recommendation was that capital works support for racecourses should be applied more selectively, using a new system of categorisation. In practice, say its critics, most of the rest of the racing industry it will mean the successful and rich courses will hog even more

Third division	Fourth division
Bristol City v Brentford	Blackpool v Peterborough
Cardiff v Preston	Bury v Aldershot (3.15)
Fulham v Carlisle	Crawley v Northampton
Gillingham v Bristol R.	Exeter v Weymouth
Huddersfield v Doncaster	Hereford v Wigan
Lincoln v Southend	Leeds v Bradford
Newport v Walsall	Mansfield v Halifax
Oxford Utd v Chesterfield	Port Vale v Bournemouth
Reading v Luton	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.
Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.
Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.	Sheff Wed v Q.P.R.

# Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Macclesfield v Chester. Second division: Macclesfield v Chester. Third division: Macclesfield v Chester.

# Graham tops bill

Herol "Bomber" Graham of Middlefield boxing champion, tops the bill at Liverpool Stadium on April 22 against Fred Coranor (Dunkirk). If Graham, aged 22, of successful he expects to fight on the Larry Holmes-Gerry Corney world heavyweight championship bill in Las Vegas in June.

# Chris Collins with Big Fry: Man and horse of action

Susan and their two children. Mr Collins refuses to commit himself to racing politics. At present he is content to play his part in the administration of the sport. Captain John Macdonald, Buchanan is the present

Win... (Large advertisement area with various text and graphics)







## The long and muddled path to saving a pier



If the end of Southend pier, once the pride of Victorian East End day-trippers, seems a little farther away this morning, it is thanks to a final effort by the local council to preserve it after nearly a decade of uncertainty about its future (Michael Horne writes). This pearly queen of piers—at a mile and a quarter

long, the farthest one may venture to sea in the certainty of not being sea-sick—will have her future determined within the next two weeks. Talks between the council and potential developers aimed at saving the pier could restore it to its former glory with the seven acres of land which now make up the pier gardens, hous-

ing a new leisure complex. But if negotiations break down, it could spell the end of its 150-year history, a fate likened recently by Sir John Bertram, one of the pier's most formidable defenders, to cutting off a limb. Photographed at low tide by Brian Harris, with its web of cast-iron gannets rising from the mud at

the mouth of the Thames Estuary, the pier suffered a serious fire in 1976, which destroyed the pier-head. The rickety electric railway was closed, for safety reasons, four years ago. Mr Richard Marriot, chairman of the council's amenities committee, said: "We cannot afford to maintain the pier because it is very costly and the

probability is that there will come a time when people will no longer be able to use it." Its future depends, he says, on a new transport system costing up to £2m, a figure which will only be acceptable to developers if they are allowed to build a leisure complex near the entrance.

## Letter from San Salvador

## Whoever wins the vote, the civilians will lose

Whether the left-wing guerrillas succeed in disrupting Sunday's elections or not, the young long ago lost the importance initially attached to it, particularly by the United States. It was seen as the way out of the impasse persisting since 1979, when reform-minded army officers seized power in an attempt to end the brutal verities of successive regimes in the 50 years since the country had its last flirtation with democracy.

President José Napoleón Duarte, who heads the junta of civilians and military figures which has run the country for the past two years, and which will leave office when the victors of tomorrow's elections take over, offered a little cheer when he addressed his countrymen on Thursday night.

"We recognise that the elections are not the total solution to the problem, but they are the beginning of the solution," Señor Duarte said.

He was speaking at a ceremony at which the commanders of the Armed Forces, along with senior members of the judiciary, pledged in public that they would ensure free and fair elections, and respect the results.

Señor Duarte has experience of "free and fair" elections here in 1972, he was the presidency only to have it snatched away by the officers with whom he has shared office, if not power, for the past two years. He suffered a severe enduring embarrassment of the United States, has virtually ignored requests to end its tendency to exact reprisals against civilians each time it suffers a humiliation at the hands of the guerrillas.

There is little reliable evidence to suggest that the elections will win the elections. Señor Duarte's Christian Democrats or the five opposing parties of the right. The right, more or less lined up behind the demagogic figure of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, has however already indicated that it will not accept a Christian Democratic victory.

Although the United States, despite the proconsular role played here by Mr Deane Hinton, its Ambassador, has avoided partisan commitment, it has let it be known that a victory by the extreme right would be a disaster. It would show President Reagan's strategy of trying to win congressional support for economic and military aid to beat off the threat posed by the guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

The guerrillas might welcome a right-wing victory, because that would provoke a further polarization of an already deeply divided country. The right have already made it clear that they intend forcibly to clear the political centre ground of those whom they have persistently labelled as handmaidens of international communism. And such threats are taken seriously.

But growing evidence indicates that the guerrillas want to avoid providing a pretext for the right to unleash a wave of violence against civilians who have already suffered at least 30,000 dead in the turbulence of the past two years.

The left, which is seen as obliged to carry out its threat to disrupt the vote, is not without its dilemmas. Not the least is pressure from Cuba and Nicaragua to avoid provoking the United States into intervening more actively in Central America.

Only one candidate, Señor Duarte, can in any way be described as standing for reconciliation. His opponents expect a mandate to put the clock back.

If they are given it, a terrible vengeance will be wreaked on those who, during the past two years, have been associated with reform programmes.

Paul Ellman

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

## Today's events

## Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Cadet Force Association, presents new banner to Army Cadet Force, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 3.

## New exhibitions

Leaves Never Grow On Trees—prints from Max Ernst's Histoire

## Naurville Billingham Art Gallery

Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (from today until May 21)

The Dark Hills, the Heavy Clouds, paintings and drawings of Wales, National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (from today until May 23)

The Sculptures of Dezas, Royal Museum, Canterbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (from today until May 11)

## Paintings and drawings by Sue and Malcolm Davies

City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (from today until April 24)

Exchanges and engravings by Anthony Green and Bernard Potts and dishes by Siddey El-Nigoumi, Bohun Gallery, 13 Station Road, Henley-on-Thames; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Wed and Sun (from today until April 22)

David Shilling Hats, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (from today until April 24)

200 Years of American History, American Museum, Claverton Manor, Bath; Tues to Sun 2 to 5; closed Mon; (opens today, until Oct 31)

Weggie's New York Photo-graphics 1935-1950, work by Arthur Fellig, and paintings by Gillian Ayres, Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow; Tues-Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Mon (both from today until April 17)

Last chance to see

Drawings and sculpture by Margaret Hodges, Museum and Art Gallery, Blagrove Street, Reading; 10 to 5; (ends today)

Peasants—peasants in 19th century art, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen; 10 to 5; (ends today)

Arts and Crafts, Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tumbidge Wells; 10 to 5.30 (ends today)

Musical

Haydn's The Seasons, Northern Philharmonic Orchestra, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 7.30

English music from 16th century to present day, Luttrell Room, Liverpool Cathedral, 7.30

General

London Is... Entertainment

highlighting variety of theatre in London's West End, and tourist attractions of the capital, Lime Street station, Liverpool, 10 to 6

Tomorrow

Last chance to see

The royal wedding dress and gifts, St Mary's Centre, Chester; 10 to 5 (ends today)

An Artist in Greece—bath paintings by Mary Potter, All Saints Church, Lewes, Sussex; 11 to 4.30 (ends today)

Drawings and prints of the Romantic period, 1790-1840, and English prints from London's West End, and tourist attractions of the capital, Lime Street station, Liverpool, 10 to 6

Parachutes from Lewis, Room, Liverpool Cathedral, 7.30

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highlighting variety of theatre in London's West End, and tourist attractions of the capital, Lime Street station, Liverpool, 10 to 6

Parachutes from Lewis, Room, Liverpool Cathedral, 7.30

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## Boat Race

The 128th Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race takes place today, from Putney to Mortlake, starting at 2.30. From Putney Bridge to the boat houses at Putney there is a good view of the start. Hammersmith Bridge is about the midway point along the 3 mile stretch of river, and the finish can be viewed from Putney Meadows, Putney, Chelsea, Chiswick Bridge (Coverage on BBC1 from 1.40)

The papers

The Daily Mirror says the SDP plane "is well and truly airborne with Roy Jenkins in the pilot's seat"

Faced with growing pressure from American businessmen over Japanese competition, the Washington Post said yesterday the Reagan administration is trying to find a compromise between protectionism and free trade.

Roads

London and South-east

Congestion this afternoon in Epsom, St Mary Lane and Putney Wood areas due to cavalcade of motorcycles.

Midlands: 26th Wolverhampton Marathon: many roads closed throughout the area. A6: Temporary signals at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire. A49: Delays on Road Road, Hereford, between Gunton Road and Home Lacy Road.

Wales and West: A48: Closed at Ashchurch, Gloucestershire, from tonight to 3 pm tomorrow. A49: Lane closure W of Gloucester. A25: Lane closures at Bangor-on-Dee, Cwyd.

North: A1 (M): Southbound lane closures N of Scotch Corner, N York. A1: Lane closures between Selby and Wetherby.

Scotland: A75: Motorcade demonstration between 2 and 3 this afternoon between Eastgates and Dumfries; alternative route via A70/A74. A88: Lane closure on Clyde Expressway near Fimlinton, Glasgow. A7: Temporary signals 8 miles S of Glasgow.

Information supplied by the AA.

Anniversaries

TODAY

William Conrad Röntgen, discoverer of X-rays was born at Laarsum, Germany, 1845. Deaths: James I, at Whitehall, 1701; Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect of St Paul's Cathedral and designer of the Albert Memorial, London, 1873; John Bright, Rochdale, 1889.

TOMORROW

Raphael was born at Urbino, Italy, 1483, and St Teresa at Avila, 1515.

The Pound

Bank

buy

sell

Australia \$ 1.77

Austria Sch 31.60

Belgium Fr 94.50

Canada \$ 2.26

Denmark Kr 15.24

Finland Mk 11.50

France Fr 11.00

Germany DM 4.47

Greece Dr 115.00

Hong Kong \$ 10.50

India Ru 24.00

Italy Lit 2400.00

Japan Y 464.00

Netherlands Gld 4.34

Norway Kr 11.32

Portugal Esc 131.00

Spain Pta 162.50

Sweden Kr 11.00

Switzerland Fr 2.20

USA \$ 1.77

Yugoslavia Dnr 98.00

London: The FT Index closed down 2.2 at 557.2

## Gardens open

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Derbyshire: Chatsworth, Bakewell; very large garden, famous early and late flowers, wooded paths for sale.

Every day from Sunday until Oct 24 to 25

Devonshire: Marwood Hill, Marwood, 4m N of Barnstaple; large collection of camellias in the open air, under glass, daffodils, rhododendrons, rare flowering shrubs, bog garden, large greenhouse with Australian plants, plants for sale (Every day from dawn to dusk)

Wiltshire: Corsham Court, Corsham; large garden designed by Capability Brown and Repton, splendid spring flowers, plants and produce for sale (2 to 6, also open Tues, Wed and Thurs.)

TOMORROW

Derbyshire: Shirley House, Shirley, 5m SE of Ashbourne; daffodils, shrubs (11 to 7).

Hampshire: Castletop, Little Lane, Surbiton, E of Reading; woodland walks, bulbs and shrubs, plants for sale (2 to 6).

Lepe House, Exbury, Nr Southampton; 11-acre woodland and wild garden, plants for sale (2 to 6).

Kent: Woodlands Manor, Ashham, 5m SE of Canterbury; old walled garden, woodland walks (2 to 6).

Leicestershire: Garden, Priory Lane, Ulverscroft, Leicestershire; 6-acre garden, unusual trees and shrubs, heather garden, woodland walks, plants for sale (dawn to dusk).

Aberdeenshire: Williamstone, Inch; heaths and heathers, greenhouse (plants daily 10 to 6).

Wiltshire: Ardwell House, Ardwell, Stranraer; spring flowers, shrubs, rock plants (daily, all day).

In the garden

Lift and divide snowdrops

immediately, have finished flowering. The large flowered jackmanii-clematis should be cut back now to about 18in above ground; small flowered forms of the clematis Montana group eventually become heavily congested and need drastic thinning out of old stems. Escallonia and honeysuckles may also be trimmed back now to give a good crop of flowers in late summer; also Sparganium angustifolium, the Spanish broom.

Plant garlic now, either the whole bulb or separate the segments, and plant each separately, two inches deep.

Remove the winter's deposit of pine from glass of greenhouses, and frames: light is more important than heat to young seedlings under glass, but keep some newspapers handy to protect small seedlings from strong midday sun.

British Summer Time

Summer time begins at 1 a.m. tomorrow when clocks should be put forward one hour to 2 a.m. GMT (Summer time ends at 2 a.m. GMT on Sunday, October 24, when clocks go back one hour to 1 a.m. GMT).

The following countries will change to summer time tomorrow morning: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, E and W Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain. The USSR moves its clocks forward on April 1.

Britain and Ireland will go on BST (GMT +1); other EEC countries on BST +2 (GMT +2) except Greece-BST +2 (GMT +3); most E European countries on BST +2 (GMT +3), and (after April 1) Russia on BST +3 (GMT +4).

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to:

Cathy James, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

## Weather

Pressure will remain high in S with a weak trough of low pressure crossing some N parts.

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, E. NW and Central N. Mild, dry and sunny; fine and dry, with variable light winds; max temp 15 to 16°C (59 to 61°F).

East Angles, SE, Central S and SW. Drier, Cloudy, Mild; max temp 13 to 14°C (55 to 57°F) but cooler on coast.

Wales, Central Highlands, Argyll, N. Ireland: Rather cloudy at times, sunny intervals, mild but some drizzle in places; wind SW, veering W to NW, light or moderate; max temp 10 to 10°C (46 to 50°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mainly dry, with occasional rain or drizzle, becoming brighter with scattered showers; wind W to NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 10 to 11°C (50 to 52°F).

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